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OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

EVEN the official and personal prospects of Lord John Russell are of less consequence than the question how Great Britain is to comport herself in the face of the dangers which still menace Europe. There is no blinking the fact of their existence. They are not at all times equally serious—just as in a gale of wind, it sometimes blows less violently for one quarter of an hour than for another. Last week, no doubt, things looked brighter. The retirement of Prince Napoleon, the note in the "Moniteur," and some favourable rumours about Lord Cowley's mission, made people more hopeful. But a few days produced another reaction, and we have this week been living under its shadow. No wonder that, under such circumstances, party topics should be at a discount; and that the prospect of a dissolution, and an agitation, should alarm sober-minded people. By all means let us have the state of the representation improved as soon as possible, and as effectually as possible; but what is even more desirable is, that it should be done as quietly as possible. Our readers, however, know our general views on that subject; the question does not change its bearings—as the European one does—every day; and we are not free from an apprehension that the full force of the last-mentioned one is hardly yet appreciated by the public.

The real seriousness of the state of the Continent is all embodied in one fact—the preparations continue. Sardinia by calling out the contingent, and Austria by pouring troops into her Italian provinces, have shown *their* opinion as to what is to happen. The two nations are facing each other with war in their eyes; and the crisis is almost arrived at that point when peace will not be any longer worth while. There is a certain stage, indeed, when it is as cheap to fight as to keep quiet, and it is of arriving at this goal that we are afraid. The disparity of the Powers, in force, is indeed immense. But if Austria is a lion, Sardinia is a bull-dog, and may think herself capable of holding on by the lion's nose till help comes up. To suppose that, however war might begin, the French Emperor would keep out of it, is absurd. He might wish to do so—we dare say he wishes he had never begun the excitement at this

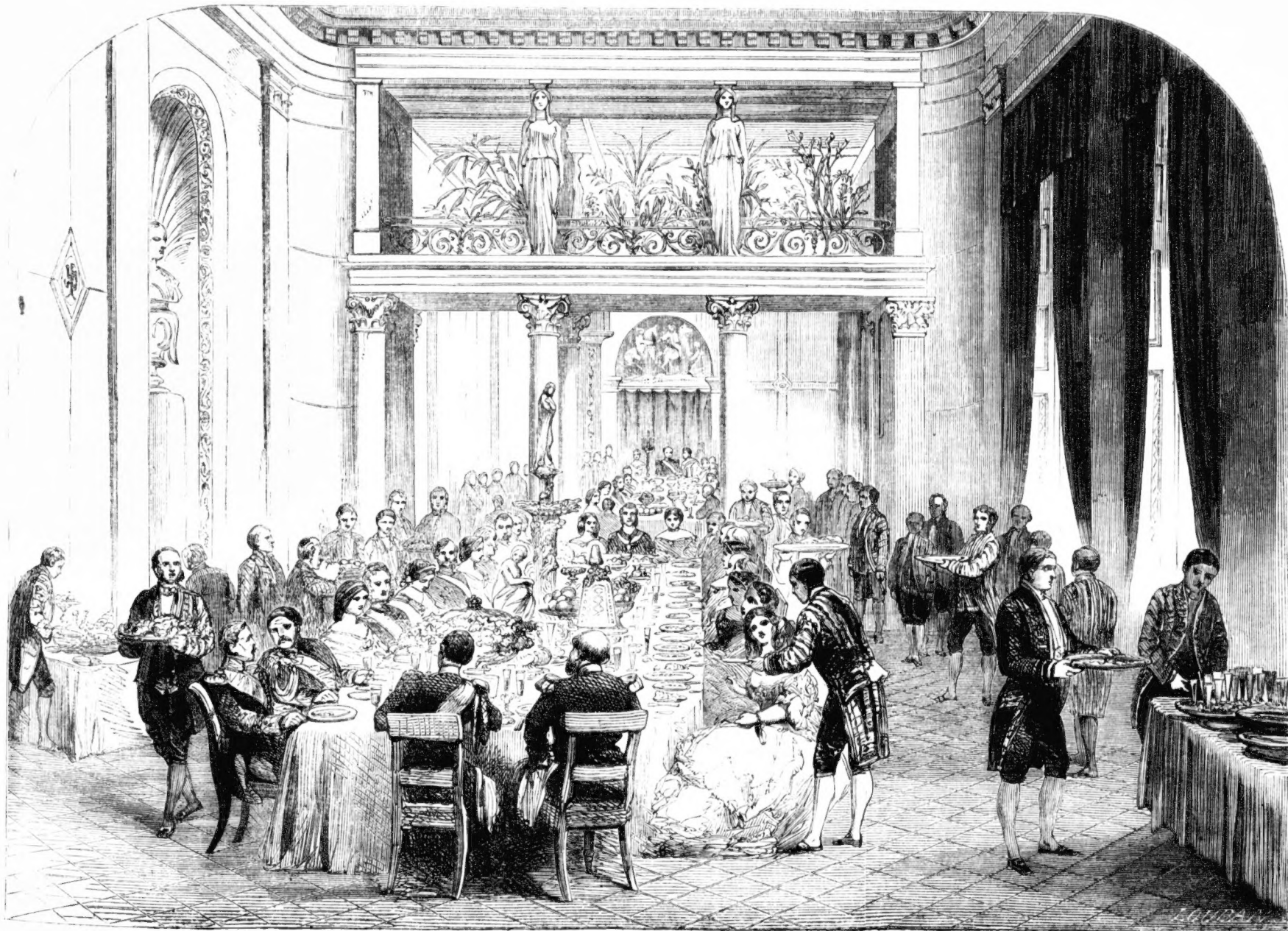
moment—but he could not stand aloof if once the ball was opened. The cheers, shrieks, and reproaches together of Italy, the burning sense of shame in the French army, would soon make *his* neutrality impossible. When once that it comes to a war between France and Austria, the Revolution awakens again, and the whole map of Europe becomes "an open question." Perhaps, in even such a tremendous movement as that, the British people might be philosophical enough to go on with such questions as putting the City corporation to rights, and amending the Highway Acts. But after our experience of the Russian war, we do not ourselves think that they would. On the contrary, we are afraid that when once the "Times" had sent Dr. Russell to Lombardy, nothing would be read in our columns except the Foreign Intelligence. Then there would be constant rumours of alliances with this Power or that Power; our neutrality would be infinitely difficult to preserve; and a perpetual uneasiness would exist as to whether we were quite ready in case a new turn in the game brought ourselves into it. We make these observations to illustrate the importance of our watching the crisis carefully, and, without improper intervention, endeavouring to assist the Powers concerned by our advice. Lord Cowley's mission will still have done good, even should war prove to have been inevitable. It will have shown Europe that we intend to take no *side* in its disputes; that if we do not support Austrian misgovernment, so neither will we support French dictation; that, in fact, we intend to give our weight where weight is found necessary to the general equilibrium. This is the true policy of a Power like Britain, and it is a great pity that it is ever departed from. In '48 and '49, the Whig Government, by coquetting with parties in Italy, exposed us to the annoyance of being asked for partisanship, and reproached with insincerity, at every future time of excitement. Let us steer clear this time, at all events, of such folly.

Foreign countries find it difficult to understand this country because of its double character. We have here, working in harmony, elements which they find incompatible, yet with each of which parties amongst them can sympathise. The Austrian respects the stability and hereditary character of our institutions,

the Italian republican our free press and free meetings. The very variety should confirm us in our non-intervention principles, by leaving us no excuse for going wholesale on either side. Had we ever in our own history let one side of our two tendencies get uppermost, the result would have been disastrous to the whole State. There is not, in truth, a single reason why we should support democratic revolution any more than we should support absolutism in Italy; constantly as some writers assume or imply that there is. Constitutionalism, of course, has a right to our sympathies, and, at this moment, Piedmont is the object of our good wishes, though she may forfeit them by becoming an aggressor in the cause—not of constitutionalism, but of aggrandisement, disturbance, and delusive "nationality."

We incline, we say, to fear that war is not averted yet; and this is chiefly because the excitement spread by the existence of vast armaments is likely to cause revolutionary outbreaks—the only events now waited for as pretexts for war. The homage to opinion, paid by those who still wait a decent pretext for flying at each other's throats, is welcome as a sign as far as it goes. But at any moment it may vanish at the signal of an insurrection, and then war will soon develop its own character. It intensifies the selfish passions of those who engage in it. It will soon separate the common element—zeal for Italy—which exists in Sardinian and republican, and make Sardinian ambition stronger in the one, and republican zeal in the other. Thus, in the last Italian struggle, Sardinian and Mazzinian deserted each other, and ever since each has been labouring to show that his quondam ally was the real traitor. But if such want of unity exists among men speaking the same tongue, what have they to hope from the French in that way? Can a French emperor or general really care in the heat of victory—supposing him victorious—for anything so much as for the power, glory, and influence of France?

Unquestionably, this is an unlucky time for Great Britain to be watching a probable European war, in ignorance whether the most determined neutrality will be able to keep her out of it. In the first place, her party system has got into a state in which her domestic legislation is constantly interfered with,



THE STATE BANQUET AFTER THE CHRISTENING OF THE INFANT PRINCE AT BERLIN.—(FROM A SKETCH BY A. KRETSCHMER.)



it being so confused that changes of ministry are inevitable almost every year or two. In the next place, her old statesmen are nearly "done," and hardly a man of genius is coming up to replace them, though we all expected a rush of ability from the changes of 1832. In the third place, much of our army is in India; and our navy is only being pulled by great efforts out of a positive state of inferiority. Surely this is an awkward position for a country of our renown. Yet, such it is; and at this very moment we are asked to welcome back to power a venerable oligarchy, with a reform policy already rejected by the country, and with a following, of which the smallest fault is their hopelessly mediocre degree of intellect!

BAPTISM OF THE INFANT PRINCE AT BERLIN.

THE birth of a son to Prince Frederick-William and his Princess, has been productive of almost as much enthusiasm as was their marriage a year previously. Wishing to give some testimony of satisfaction, at the unanimous good feeling demonstrated towards them on all sides, their Royal Highnesses, on the baptismal day, issued the following interesting notification:—

"The birth of our son has been hailed in all parts of the country by sympathies which will remain as deeply engraven upon our hearts, as the reception given us a year ago at the time of our marriage. We do not think we could choose a better day than that of the baptism of our child for addressing to the whole country our warmest thanks for the joy it has displayed, and for the cordial congratulations to which it has given so touching an expression. May we, with the help of God, raise up our son for the honour and happiness of our dear country."

On this day, countless numbers of the inhabitants assembled before the residence of the Prince and Princess Frederick-William, in order to witness what out-door proceedings were visible. As soon as darkness set in, the signal was given for a general illumination, and all parts of the town were brilliantly lit up. The weather was as favourable as on the day on which the royal entry into Berlin took place last year; and the wind, though fresh, was not so boisterous as to interfere with the brilliancy of the devices in gas with which the houses and public buildings were resplendent. As might be expected, the main attraction at night was the broad avenue known as Unter den Linden, where devices in gas, torches, and lamps, were displayed with equal prodigality and taste. A splendid triumphal arch was erected in Wilhelm Strasse, which was profusely decorated with natural and artificial flowers, and bore several beautifully-executed national devices in gas. Indeed in almost all the principal streets similar manifestations of joy were to be seen. The royal buildings were not illuminated, but many of the residences of the Ministers and of the hotels of the foreign embassies were decorated.

After the ceremony of the baptism was concluded, a grand *déjeuner dînatoire* (of which we are enabled to present a faithful illustration) was given at the palace of the Princess Frederick-William. There were three tables: at one sat the royal family, in a circular apartment at the end of the *salon* which was occupied by the guests.

The engraving illustrative of the baptismal ceremony, which we last week promised, is unavoidably delayed: it will appear in our next Number.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

ANOTHER note in the "Moniteur," an abstract of which we print elsewhere, and rumours of ministerial changes, are the most important items to be jotted down under this head. In no respect has France improved her position in the eyes of those who desire peace, and abhor ambitious meddling. A large batch of new colonels and generals have been appointed; and the squadron of evolution quitted Toulon on Tuesday, "for the purpose of practising naval manœuvres."

SPAIN.

MR. PRESTON, the United States Minister, was received by the Queen at a private audience on Saturday. In the name of President Buchanan he assured her Majesty of the President's desire to maintain friendly relations with Spain, and expressed his own personal conviction that the general wish of the people of the United States was to preserve the bonds of friendship at present existing between the States and Spain, and to do everything in their power to avoid any misunderstanding between the two countries. The Queen replied in terms flattering both to the United States and its Minister.

AUSTRIA.

AUSTRIA continues to make great preparations for war. Large bodies of troops have been drawn to Vienna from the northern and eastern provinces of the empire; and, "and," says a correspondent, writing on the 11th instant, "there is reason to believe that another army of 50,000 men will be on its way to Italy in a few days." The press maintains a very warlike tone. The funds have again fallen; affected not a little by the insecurity of Lord Derby's government.

Count Buol has sent a new circular-note to Austrian diplomatic agents in foreign countries. From this it appears that all pending questions have been discussed at Vienna by Count Buol and Lord Cowley without any distinct proposal having been made. "Count Buol flatters himself that on leaving Vienna Lord Cowley has carried with him a conviction that the feelings of the Emperor are of the most conciliatory nature, and that he will lend his influence towards the maintenance of peace, if the Emperor of the French is willing to re-establish a good feeling between the two countries."

The Austrian Government continues to send into Galicia and the other Slavonian or German provinces the Italian regiments on whose fidelity it cannot rely.

PRUSSIA.

M. SCHLEINITZ, the Prussian Minister for Foreign Affairs, made the following declaration in the Chamber of Deputies on the 9th instant:—

"The moment has arrived when we think it our duty to speak out. It is the wish of the Government that European treaties shall be duly respected. The hope it entertained of a pacific solution has increased. The Government will not forget its German calling; it remembers that the policy of Prussia must be a national policy, and that it must represent the rights, the honour, the independence of the common country. Whether the efforts in favour of peace succeed or fail, the future will find Prussia at the post which Providence has assigned to her."

This declaration was received with loud cheers.

Count Schwerin, the President, rose, and in the name of the Chamber thanked the Government for the communication, and promised it the full support of the representatives of the nation. The whole Chamber rose to show their assent.

RUSSIA.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF is reported to have issued a despatch, in which he pronounces himself in a pacific sense, and promises to support Prussia and England in their endeavours to procure a peaceful solution of the pending difficulties. The Russian Cabinet admits the necessity of the maintenance of treaties, but advises a revision of the separate treaties of Austria with the small Italian States.

The Russians are quietly sending troops to the Moldavian frontier; and it is stated that the Russian army in the south-west of Poland is being reinforced.

ITALY.

SARDINIA appears bent upon an explosion. The reserve—including land transport companies, hospital attendants, and military workmen—has been called out: an entire force estimated at from 30,000 to 40,000 men. No delay or excuse is admitted. Sick men's certificates, attested by the mayor of their locality, must be renewed every fortnight; men absent from their homes are to be recalled by their rela-

tives or by the mayor, and those who remain absent for more than fifteen days after the expiration of the time allowed for joining, are to be treated as deserters. More remarkable is the rumour that Count Cavour has actually intimated to the French Minister at Turin his intention to serve a summons on the French government, forthwith, for aid and assistance.—The "Corriere Mercantile" of Genoa states that the subscriptions to the Piedmontese loan have amounted to double the sum allotted to Piedmont. Many of the subscribers are small landholders, farmers, and even workmen.—General Garibaldi has been appointed a general of division, and nominated to the command of three battalions.—The emigration from Lombardy to Piedmont rapidly increases, embracing whole families, cadets of noble houses, and priests with their flocks. The government of Lombardy has in consequence suspended its travelling permits.

In spite of the mystery which surrounds the King of Naples, it is generally believed that his Majesty's illness becomes more serious. The chamber of the royal invalid is closed with care, and no one enters it but the Queen, the physicians, and four sailors and quartermasters of the royal yacht, who act as nurses. Lately his Majesty underwent an operation on the thigh.—Extraordinary activity prevails in his Majesty's arsenals. A fresh levy of 18,000 men has been ordered for the end of May. Altogether, during the year ending at the present time, 36,000 men have been enlisted.

Tuscany, Milan, and Venice are in a ferment. A military conspiracy is said to have been discovered in Parma: the prevalent version of the affair is, that two companies of Chasseurs and a battalion of the Line had formed a plan for taking possession of the Palace and of the War-office. The Paris correspondent of the "Augsburg Gazette" has learnt from French engineers, who are employed in Turin, that there is to be an "explosion" in Leghorn on or about the 25th of March, and the same news has been received from Florence.

The Pope has announced before the Consistory that he did not claim the fulfilment of the demand for the evacuation of the Papal States. His only intention was to prevent a collision of the two Catholic empires in his own dominions. He had entrusted his destiny to Providence. Orders have been given for public prayers for the maintenance of peace.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

HASSIR PACHA, recently appointed Minister of Finance by the Sultan, has annexed a council to his ministerial department, composed of four Turkish and three European members.

The Wallachian deputation has been directed to refer its demands to the decision of the conference to be convoked on the affairs of the Principalities.

The Austrian troops, concentrated in the neighbourhood of Semlin, in order to observe Servia, are about to leave their position. The force, consisting of nearly 12,000 men, is ordered to march towards Trieste.

From Persia we learn that Ferruk Khan has been appointed Keeper of the Seals, Chief of the Shah's Household, and Grand Marshal of the Palace. Houssan Ali, aide-de-camp of the Shah, has been appointed Ambassador to the Courts of Paris and London.

AMERICA.

THE "Cuba Thirty Million Bill" has been withdrawn. It is to be re-introduced to the Senate on the first day of the next session.

The recent attack of Mr. Nugent, late United States representative at Victoria, British Columbia, on the British officials, has been shown to be calumnious.

President Buchanan, in reply to a call of the House of Representatives for information concerning the African slave trade, says that the instructions given to the commanders of the squadron are such that seizures are not likely to be made except under circumstances which would at least ensure a certificate of probable cause, if they did not authorise condemnation.

More astounding disclosures of corruption in high places inculpate the President. Certain naval contracts are said to have been given, not according to the rules of competition, which favour those who offer the most advantageous terms for the Treasury, but to conciliate establishments with the greater number of voters in their employ.

Mr. William Smith O'Brien met with an enthusiastic reception on landing in New York.

An arrival from Aspinwall brings the announcement that the Cass-Yrisari treaty had not been ratified, but that a treaty, negotiated by Sir William Gore Ouseley, has been signed.

The British squadron at Santa Cruz, co-operating with the French commander on the same station, appear to have taken an active part in the civil conflict raging there. These were drawn up in a hostile attitude before the town, taking part with Miramon, and against Juarez. They threatened to attack the city from the sea, while Miramon did the same from the land side.

Advices from British Columbia state that Fraser River had risen several feet, and was free from ice, and the miners were generally at work.

CHINA.

THE disturbances which had broken out afresh at Canton, have been got over, we hear. The *Furious* and *Cruiser* ships, that Lord Elgin had to leave behind him up the Yang-tze-Kiang, have returned to Shanghai, having had the advantage of an unexpected rise of the river. Lord Elgin remained at the latter city, the merchants of which had presented him with a congratulatory address. It is understood that Sir John Bowring will soon return to England, and that a successor will be appointed to take his place.

H.M.S. *Inflexible* had left for Japan, in order to check the import of prohibited goods into Japan; to warn merchants who attempted to carry on an illegal traffic, that they must take the consequences, as they would receive no protection from the British Government.

IONIA.

SIR Henry Storks has prorogued the Ionian Assembly for six months, after ten days' useless discussion. His Excellency has announced his intention to visit and minutely inspect, not only the public departments and institutions of the country at Corfu, the seat of government, but at the other islands forming the Septinsular state. "It is my intention," says he, "to devote a considerable period to this important duty, to put myself in personal communication with all classes of the community, to inquire into the real wants of the country, and to endeavour to accomplish the anxious wish of my heart, the happiness and welfare of the Ionian people."

A FRENCH OPINION ON THE ARMSTRONG GUN.—The "Moniteur de l'Armée" says: "This new invention is interesting in every point of view; but we will make one remark. In the Baltic and Crimean campaigns the English produced a rifled cannon, known as the Lancaster gun. On the practice-ground, at home, it threw to a great distance and with precision: it launched fulminating projectiles of terrible effect; but in the field and in active war, it did not realise the advantages which had been promised by the experiments at home. It threw to a distance inferior to what had been expected, and without precision. As for the projectile, one of its greatest faults was that it never burst. We believe that the new cannon, like the Lancaster gun, must be definitively judged on the field of battle."

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—No less than 4,150 pictures have already arrived for the great Paris Exhibition, and some 2,000 more have been promised. The time for sending in paintings ended with the 1st of March; a large number of artists, however, have received permission to delay the sending in of their productions for some weeks longer. The greatest number of these works are, as might be expected, of French origin; but there are a pretty considerable number also from Belgium and Holland, and a few from Italy. The English pictures are sent in one lot, having been previously inspected by a home jury of artists; a special apartment, *le salon Anglais*, is assigned to them.

ACCOUNTS FROM SEBASTOPOL, state that only a few of the old inhabitants have returned; the city appears almost deserted and commerce at an end. Formerly Sebastopol numbered 45,000 inhabitants; now it contains scarcely a sixth of that number. The wood huts built by the French serve as residences for the peasants.

THE "MONITEUR" AGAIN SPEAKS.

THE "Moniteur" of Tuesday morning published another article on the peace or war question, stating that part of Germany now presents an appearance both afflicting and astonishing. France has occupied herself with the consideration of the alarming state of affairs in Italy merely to allay it, in concert with the allies, and in the interest of European tranquillity. It is impossible to show a more sincere desire to unravel peacefully the existing difficulties, and to prevent further complications, which are always the result of want of foresight and decision.

The article proceeds to show that the mistrust of a part of Germany springs from reflections unjust and painful to France, and shows contempt for the independence of her policy.

The existence of a great nation like France is not restricted to her frontiers, but manifests itself to the world at large by salutary acts. France uses her endeavours for the benefit of her national power and the advantage of civilisation. When a nation relinquishes this character, she relinquishes her rank. To contest her right to this legitimate influence would be to mistake the rights of France. The Emperor understood how to overcome all prejudices when he ascended the throne. What would have happened if, by acting otherwise, he had rejected, through distrust, the servants of the former dynasty, and if, instead of establishing the tranquillity of Europe on a firmer footing, he had shaken it by redeeming, at the price of European security and independence, the recollections of 1814 and 1815? That, however, he has not done. "The Emperor does not hold the whole of Germany responsible for the errors and malevolence of certain manifestations which spring rather from mean resentment than from serious fears. Germany has nothing to apprehend from us for her independence. We sympathise with her nationality. By showing herself impartial she will show herself foresighted, and will do better service to the cause of peace." Prussia understood this line of policy when she united herself with England in order to promulgate wise counsels at Vienna at a time when agitators were endeavouring to arouse angry passions and to form a coalition among the States of the German Confederation against us. The attitude of Prussia is certainly more advantageous to Germany than the excitement of those who, appealing to the malice and prejudices of 1813, expose themselves to the risk of irritating national feeling in France.

The French people is susceptible as regards its honour, but at the same time moderate in the employment of its strength. If threats will arouse it, it may nevertheless be pacified by conciliation.

A NEW AMERICAN TRAGEDY.

LONDONERS may remember one Mr. Daniel E. Sikes, who was once connected with the American embassy here. He has become an assassin, and the object of his vengeance is Mr. Philip B. Key, the United States Attorney for the district of Columbia. Mr. Sikes and Mr. Key had been very intimate; and the former had at length come to the conclusion that his wife and Mr. Key were too intimate. A watch was set, and on Saturday evening, the 27th, Mr. Sikes, resolved no longer to play the spy, determined to confront his wife directly with his suspicions. "At first Mrs. Sikes strongly denied her guilt, but on her husband's asking her whether, on the Wednesday previous, she had not entered a house in Fifteenth Street in a certain dress, and concealed by a hood, she cried out, 'I am betrayed and lost,' and swooned away. On recovering her senses, she admitted her guilt and besought mercy and pardon. Mr. Sikes said he would not injure her, but he had a right to a full confession. Two ladies in the house were sent for as witnesses, and in their presence Mrs. Sikes made a full confession in writing, stating that Mr. Key had hired the house in Fifteenth Street, in which they had constantly met. Mrs. Sikes's confession was made in the midst of the bitterest contrition and misery. Her husband simply asked her to give him back her wedding-ring, and desired her to write to her mother to come and take her from his house for ever. Mrs. Sikes made no objections, admitting the justice of her punishment in the most affecting language. Her mother was to arrive next day to remove her from the fearful scene of guilt, remorse, and blood. Once having quitted the presence of his wife, Mr. Sikes gave way to the strongest emotion, and passed the night in a state bordering on distraction—a feeling which was worked into madness next morning on seeing the cause of his misery. Mr. Key, with gay audacity past opposite the window of his wife's room, and waving his handkerchief—the usual signal for assassination. Asking a Mr. Butterworth, who was at his house, to follow Key and engage him in conversation, so that he would not get out of sight, he rushed up stairs for his pistols, and quickly following, found Butterworth and Key together at the corner of Sixteenth Street, when the tragedy took place. On coming up Sikes walked directly up to Key, and said, 'You have dishonoured me, you scoundrel—prepare to die!'—at the same time drawing his pistol. Almost simultaneously Key placed his hand inside his vest, and drawing what appeared to be a pistol, but what was really an opera-glass (which he used to reconnoitre Mrs. Sikes's room, at a distance), said, 'You had better not shoot!' Sikes at once fired. Key at the same time throwing his glass at him. This shot only grazed Key, slightly raising the skin of his side, and he immediately leapt behind a tree to avoid another shot. Sikes followed, and Key, catching his arm, endeavoured to prevent him from firing, but Sikes disengaged himself, and firing again, shot Key in the upper part of the right thigh, close to the main artery. Falling on his hip and supporting himself with his hand, he cried, 'Murder! don't shoot!' Sikes still following, fired again, with his pistol close to Key, the ball passing through his body below the breast. In the meantime the report of the pistol and Key's cries startled those in the neighbourhood. Mr. T. Martin, a clerk in the Treasury department, who happened at the moment to be leaving the club, rushed back, calling out 'Key is murdered!' Mr. Doyle, Mr. Upshun, and Mr. Tidball, who were in the club at the time, proceeded hastily to the spot, where they found Sikes standing over the body of Key, with his pistol presented at his head, and which he tried twice to discharge, but which snapped both times, and Mr. Butterworth standing by compassion. On Mr. Doyle's touching Sikes on the shoulder, the latter at once desisted, and turning around, said, 'Gentlemen, this man has dishonoured me!' Upon this he took Butterworth's arm, and walking from the spot with the most perfect self-possession, proceeded to Attorney-General Black's, and delivered himself into custody."

DREADFUL STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.

FROM New Orleans we have the following account of a frightful catastrophe:—

"The steamboat *Princess*, from Vicksburg for New Orleans, exploded her boiler, caught fire, and burnt to the water's edge, at Conrad's Point, near Baton Rouge, on Sunday morning. Four hundred passengers were on board of her at the time, two hundred of whom are lost and missing, mostly residents of Louisiana and Mississippi. A large number of those on board were ladies. Many were badly scalded and otherwise injured. The boat and cargo are a total loss. The *Princess* was one of the finest vessels plying on the river."

A later despatch says:—

"A boat arrived from the wreck of the *Princess*, bringing a number of the wounded. It was foggy at the time of the explosion, and the *Princess*, being behind time, had too much steam on. A Baton Rouge despatch says the engineer is reported to have said he would reach New Orleans certain in time, or blow up. The engineer was cut in two, about one hundred persons were wounded, and many of them are in a dangerous and dying state. It is impossible yet to ascertain the number of the lost. Several boats saved many lives. There is much excitement here and all along the river. Numerous unrecognised bodies are being found."

THE KING OF SARDINIA completed the 39th year of his age on the 14th inst., and, within nine days, the tenth of his reign.

IMPORTANT NEWS.—The "New York Express" says:—"The following is translated from the 'Tribunal' 'extra,' of Buenos Ayres, December 23, the latest received from that place: 'Latest News! Horrible! City of Paris Blown Up! Emperor and Court all Dead! 750,000 Lives Lost!' By the ship *Petite Marcelline*, arrived at a very late hour last night, we have received the unfortunate news that a great part of the city of Paris had been blown up! According to a letter which lies before us, this frightful catastrophe was occasioned by the villany of a great company of highwaymen, who, by means of the mines, blew up the capital of the civilised world. The Louvre is completely destroyed; the prisoners of the Bastille all perished beneath the ruins of that ancient edifice. The *Larriers* St. Antoine, St. Honoré, and St. Denis are in ashes; and the superb theatre of the Opera was also a prey to the mines. The Emperor Napoleon and his train, who a few days before had arrived at the capital, were buried in the ruins of the Louvre. The victims are estimated at 750,000, among whom are numbered the first journalists and notabilities of the empire. The details horrify us!"

INDIA.

DESPATCHES from India to the 9th of February, repeat the intelligence that the country is quiet. There are riots in the Deccan, and riots reported from Travancore; there are sepoys who still refuse to submit in Behar, and ladies have been flying from Hissar. But war, for the first time since May, 1857, has ceased. Not a movement is reported from Oude, and the people of that province have returned to their ordinary avocations. Here and there a Killidar requires a menace and a few shots just to satisfy his Rajpoot notion of honour; but there is nothing approaching to resistance. 483 forts have been levelled, and in a few days the number of arms surrendered will reach a million stand.

Mr. Montgomery in a single night (20th January) dismissed every member of the old police force, which was corrupt, cowardly, and inefficient, and replaced them by armed and drilled constabulary after the Irish plan. Each division (a division contains usually three counties) is occupied by a regiment of mounted police, and three regiments of infantry. The cities have a police of their own, aided by a corps of trained detectives, and commanded by a kotwal or mayor. The police are forbidden to receive confessions or take evidence—the only successful precaution against torture—and the investigation is left exclusively to the civil magistracy. The landlords are compelled to give information of all crime on their own estates.

Tantia Topce has disappeared. He and his men entered the desert of Bikaner, and have never been heard of since. Apparently they have split into small parties, but whether to disperse or to reunite at some point still further to the north is not yet known. Neither he nor Feroze Shah has been captured.

LORD CANNING'S POLICY IN OUDE.

LORD Stanley's reply to Lord Canning's defence of his proclamation in Oude has been published. His Lordship says:—

"I do not propose to follow, paragraph by paragraph, the elaborate arguments contained in these letters. They have been considered with the attention which was due to the high character and the distinguished position of your Lordship; and I observe with satisfaction, that the policy indicated in the document adverted to, as regards the claims of the talookdars and other proprietors in Oude, has not in practice been adopted by you, and is declared, on your own authority, never to have been intended to have been carried into effect. However indiscriminate and unsparing may have been the sentence of confiscation which your proclamation pronounced, that sentence has not been put in force; and the issuing of it would appear to have been merely a menace, designed to strike awe into the minds of those still arrayed in arms against the British government.

"Though anxious to support your authority, and to regard in the most favourable point of view any explanation of your public conduct which you might have to offer, Her Majesty's Government cannot alter their previously-expressed opinion with regard to the policy which, in this instance, you have pursued. They cannot think it wise for a government, either in Asia or in Europe, to utter threats on which it is not meant to act; and they apprehend that the tendency of such threats, when addressed to insurgents in arms, is to drive into desperate and hopeless resistance some, at least, of those who might be induced to submit by an invitation couched in more lenient terms. They are, however, glad to receive and ready implicitly to accept your assertion, that the practical effect produced upon the minds of the people has been but small. They learn with satisfaction, that the personal explanations to which you refer, as having been given by your desire through the officers of your Government, have dispelled the alarm which its contents were likely to excite. And the whole tenor of your Lordship's administration in India, and the moderation of language and of action which you have known how to preserve in circumstances of unusual difficulty and universal excitement, confirm, if confirmation were needed, the assurance which you have given of your intention to deal in a spirit of mercy and justice with those whose rights appeared to be imperilled by the language of your official declaration.

"While Her Majesty's Government adhere to the opinion expressed by them respecting the declaration, it seems to them needless further to comment on a document which has been practically cancelled by yourself; and whilst regretting what they cannot but consider as a mistaken act on your part, they desire publicly to express their full approval of your general policy, and their confident hope that the measures taken by you for the suppression of insurrection in India will at no distant period lead to the entire pacification of that country."

DISASTERS AT SEA.

THE barque Dromaire, was on a voyage from Quebec, laden with timber, to the river Clyde. On the 19th of December, while lying-to in a strong gale from the west, she was struck by a heavy sea, which swept the decks fore and aft, washed away the wheel and the mainmast, and filling the cabin with water, and causing such damage as to leave the vessel almost a complete wreck. She filled with water and became lodged, the crew being only able to save about 1 cwt. of bread, a little beef, and no water. Part of the crew lived in the foretop, and part in the house on deck. Half a biscuit was served out to each man per day. They had no means of saving any water but what ran down the masts when it rained. On the 20th of December, a steam-ship passed near the ship, and the hands suffering much from thirst; some drank sea-water. John McIlmish, seaman, died from exhaustion that night, and another, Henry Frost, deranged, jumped overboard and perished. Jan. 2, gale continuing, a boy died; most of the crew not being able to walk. Jan. 3, served out the last of the bread, nothing being left but a little salt beef, which had to be eaten raw. On Jan. 9, two more of the crew, Samuel Cochrane, a seaman, and John Murray, boy, died from starvation. About noon, a ship, which proved to be the Centurion, of and for New York from Glasgow, was observed standing towards them. A boat was put off to their relief, and they were all taken on board and safely put on board the Centurion. The sloop Hope, from Liverpool to Whitehaven, struck on Seakirk Rock, in the gale of last week, and went down, all hands perishing. Another schooner was seen to founder near the same spot. The schooner Clifton, from Cardiff for Oporto, struck on the South Tail, off Bideford Harbour, on Saturday night. Twice a life-boat was launched, and failed to reach the wreck; and before the third attempt proved successful, the ship's mast went over the side, and the captain and three men perished.

From Shields, also, disastrous news reaches us. A fearful gale blew from the east on Monday night, bringing in with it a tremendous sea. As soon as vessels that were in the offing observed what sort of a night it was likely to be they made for the harbour, and a frightful scene ensued. About seven o'clock a schooner, which afterwards turned out to be the George, of North Shields, from Holland, got too far to the leeward, and drifted towards the rocks on the Northumberland coast. She escaped the rocks, but struck upon a much more dangerous place, the foundation of the north pier, over which a most fearful sea was breaking; and she unfortunately turned with her deck to the sea. Amid the howling and raging of the storm the cries of the crew for help could be heard, and three lifeboats put off to their assistance, but from the position of the vessel they could not approach her without having their own craft dashed to pieces. Two other vessels followed the George on shore. The Elizabeth, of Boston, laden with wheat, and the Sir William Carden, belonging to Yarmouth. The scene at this moment was appalling, for it was expected that the vessels would all break up in a very short time, and that the crews must perish. An attempt was made to reach the George with a rocket-line, but failed; and the coastguards and seamen commenced to fire rockets at the other vessels. While doing so the George broke up, and her wreck drifted away before the storm. The lifeboats pulled to it, but only succeeded in saving a cabin-boy. The Sir William Carden broke up shortly after. From the Elizabeth and Sir William Carden, the crews were trailed through the surf by rocket-lines, and landed more dead than alive.

EXTENSIVE CHEMICAL WORKS for the manufacture of paraffine, &c., from peat moss, are about to be erected at Garrabost, near the town of Stornoway.

REVIVALIST PREACHERS.—For several weeks past, the Rev. J. O. Milbourne has been holding "revival" services in the Wesleyan Reformers' Chapel, and the Town-hall, Doncaster, to crowded congregations. His zeal and earnestness have been attended with much good, no doubt. Unfortunately, however, a lamentable result has been produced in two cases. Sarah Twily, a woman aged thirty years, attended Mr. Milbourne's services; and the preacher created upon her mind so deep and powerful an impression, that her reason was overthrown. She has been removed to Wakefield Asylum. Anne Stapleton, a married woman, went to hear Mr. Milbourne on Sunday, the 27th of February. His observations so preyed upon her mind after she returned home, that the effect was alarming to witness. She became gradually worse; smashed the windows in the house, and conducted herself otherwise with so much violence that it was necessary to place her under restraint also. Her affliction is, however, considered to be a temporary derangement.

IRELAND.

BRUTAL MURDER.—Edward Dourneen, a very old man, was the possessor of a farm of about 100 acres of land, at Torleyhill, Wexford. He inherited it from a late brother, who left his property on condition that a sum of money should be paid to James Dourneen, his son. It appears that Edward Dourneen, having complied with the clause in his brother's will, sought to enter on the property, possession of which, however, was refused him by the parties living thereon as tenants. Law proceedings were threatened, and shortly after Edward Dourneen was found murdered. The body, which showed a bullet-wound entering at the back, the ball passing right through and lodging in the clothes, was found lying on the road, and presented the appearance of having been dead for some time.

THE PHENIX CLUB PROSECUTIONS.—The Crown prosecutions at Tralee against the captured members of this Club dragged their slow length through several days of last week, and the earlier part of this, to little purpose. A great number of witnesses were examined, the evidence, which was very unsatisfactory in many cases, embracing all we had heard previously of private gatherings for drill, and sword and musket practice, of treasonable oaths, the preparation of arms, and projects for establishing a republic in Ireland by aid of the French or Americans. There was nothing very new in the evidence, beyond the following anonymous letter, which was proved to have been written by a prisoner named John Sullivan. It was addressed to a shopkeeper, named Sweeney, of Kenmore:—"Dear Sir,—There is a dreadful news here this morning. About fifteen persons arrested, partly on the information of a ruffian by name D. O'Sullivan, from this barony, who was also the cause of arresting the Bantry and Skibbereen people. The ruffian is in the city of Cork, a strolling gentleman. There is no person in this district from twenty to thirty or thirty-five years of age who is not suspected. It would be a charity if there could be any person in the city found who would pop his existence, if the aim was good, as I am sure you have. The writer may be in the lock-up before twelve hours, with others—all on the informations of a blackguard perjurer.—A FRANKIN." The end of the investigation was that the jury could not agree in their verdict. The trial has been postponed till the 30th of March, and the jury discharged. At Kilkenny and elsewhere other prisoners are on their trial.

SCOTLAND.

A NEW APOSTLE.—The "Glasgow Bulletin" says:—"For nearly a fortnight a man of the name of Brownlow North has been preaching daily or nightly to crowded and excited audiences in Paisley, sometimes throwing girls into hysterics, and intimating to others that they are going headlong to hell! Within the last few days he has commenced business as a sort of Father Confessor. At the close of his pulpit services he invites to private interviews those who are concerned as to the state of their souls; and, as might be expected in such circumstances, he is waited upon by crowds of ladies, who, one after another, lay bare their most secret thoughts to him. On Monday week, after a public service, he was waited upon and consulted by somewhere about forty ladies, and it was near two o'clock next morning ere he had confessed the whole."

THE PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM AND THE BALMORAL TENANCY.—An answer has been received to an address of congratulation lately presented to her Royal Highness the Princess Frederick-William of Prussia by the tenants upon Balmoral, Aberfeldie, and Berkhall estates—her Royal Highness, inclosing a handsome donation for the benefit of the poor upon these estates. In her reply, the Princess expresses the hope that she may, at no distant period, be able to revisit the "Bonnie Banks o' Dee," to which she is bound by so many dear recollections.

THE PROVINCES.

MURDER IN WALES.—Matthew Francis and Sarah his wife, who resided at Pillgwenlly, had for some time lived unhappily together. About a month since they parted, Francis going to live with his father and mother, while his wife remained at her lodgings. On Saturday morning he went to her and asked her to make a reconciliation; but she refused, declaring that she never would live with him again. The prisoner then rose and taking his wife by the head cut her throat with a razor: she died almost instantly. The murderer was arrested, and has been committed for trial.—William Jones, keeper of a public-house at Kerwin, a few miles from Merthyr, is charged with the murder of William David, a hawker. David had been drinking in Jones's house on Monday week. Some time after he had left, Jones, who had been very quarrelsome all the evening, burst into a great passion with his wife, declaring that on her account David then lay dead, and next morning the poor fellow's body was found in the stable. His skull was fractured, and he had been dead some hours.

THE MASTER OF THE VINE-HOUNDS.—The prosecution instituted against Mr. Marsh, the master of the Vine Hounds, for cruelty to a fox, has aroused the indignation of the lovers of the chase in the district of Kingsclere, where the cruelty was perpetrated. The following notice has been sent to Mr. Marsh:—"Sir, in consequence of the facts adduced in evidence before the Kingsclere bench of magistrates on the 25th ult., we feel bound to mark our sense of the wanton cruelty and the outrage on public decency of which you have been shown to be guilty. While, therefore, we are ready to offer every facility for the promotion of legitimate sport, we are constrained to forbid you or your servants to draw our coverts or to enter on our lands." This notice is signed by the Earl of Carnarvon, Earl of Portsmouth, Mr. W. Beach, M.P., Rev. L. B. Wither, Lieutenant-Colonel Dukerley, and several other landowners in the district of the hunt.

STRANGE ACCIDENT.—The "Hurricane" engine left the Preston station, with a tender and sixteen wagons attached, and proceeded safely on the way to Blackburn till it arrived at the Bamberbridge station; when the engine suddenly bolted off the rails, caught the corner of a house abutting on the railway, knocking the gable down entirely, and carrying away a portion of the front wall. The whole interior of the house was thus displayed to view. The chimney of the engine was crushed by the falling ruins of the house, and the tender was smashed to pieces. However, no accident occurred to life or limb.

DRUNKENNESS AND MURDER.—At Manchester, a shoemaker, named John Mackie, stabbed two men with a knife, one of the victims expiring almost immediately, whilst the other lies in a dangerous condition in the infirmary. The murderer was in a state of intoxication, quarrelling with a woman, when a man, John Wheeler, interfered, and was deliberately stabbed in the back. William Benson, a joiner, followed the assassin, who turned upon him, and inflicted a mortal wound with the same weapon in the abdomen. Mackie made off, but has since been apprehended.

DESPERATE BURGLARY.—Some burglars broke into a wayside public-house on the Whitby and Ga'n'sborough road, kept by an old man, with his son-in-law and two daughters. Three men entered the bed-room of the unmarried daughter, who, seizing an unloaded gun, laid about her with such strength and courage that the weapon became broken. The other daughter, in her night-dress, ran to the nearest farm-house for assistance, while the old man and his son-in-law went to the assistance of the heroine. The son was struck down with an axe immediately on his entrance into the chamber. The old man, who is upwards of sixty, was maltreated in a similar manner; and so serious are the injuries he received, that doubts are entertained of his recovery. When assistance arrived the fellows had decamped, and whether they succeeded in carrying away with them any booty we are not told.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.—A most destructive fire occurred in the village of Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, on Thursday week, destroying farms and cottages over nearly a quarter of a mile. It took place at midday, through the overheating of an oven. The high wind carried the flaming thatch of the roof some distance, and fired barns, stacks, and cottages. The progress of the conflagration was not checked until eighteen families—in all about sixty persons—were deprived of their homes. This does not include the farming property destroyed.—Intelligence has also been received of another sad fire happening at West Bergholt, near Colchester, on Friday, by which the homes of six families were destroyed, and other property consumed.

CRUELTY ON BOARD SHIP.—Buchanan and Mitchell, engineers of the steamer Bogots, who were charged with the death of Thomas Laundon, by tying him up in front of the furnace, have been committed for manslaughter. The circumstances of the case, which have already appeared in the "Illustrated Times," are briefly these: Laundon was stoker on board the Bogots, on her homeward voyage from Bahia. While a few miles from Rio Janeiro, Laundon complained of exhaustion, caused by the excessive heat of the stove-hole, and offered several of the crew ten pounds to exchange places with him. One day, when he came on deck for fresh air, Buchanan ordered him down again; and the poor fellow evincing some unwillingness, he was handed down and tied to the ladder in front of the furnace: this was done by Mitchell, Buchanan standing by and approving the act. A few minutes after Laundon expired from asphyxiation. Thomas S. Pennington, second mate of the American ship Samaritan, was also charged before the Liverpool magistrates with beating a coloured sailor named William Campbell, and causing him to fall from the skylight rigging to the deck, a distance of 150 feet. Campbell now lies in one of the hospitals in a dangerous state. From the evidence of several witnesses, it appeared that Campbell was greasing the skylight yard and mast, and that the beating (with a thick rope) was inflicted because he could not, or would not, ascend to a higher point of the rigging. The beating, it was stated, lasted for nearly three quarters of an hour, until Campbell was quite exhausted; and it was this exhaustion, together with a blow which he received over his hands, which caused him to fall. The case was remanded for a week, in order to await the recovery or death of Campbell.

EARL GREY ON THE GOVERNMENT REFORM BILL.

EARL GREY has addressed a letter to Lord Elcho upon the Reform Bill now before the House of Commons. *Apròpos* of the part Lord John Russell proposes to play, the Earl says:—

"If the settlement of the question is the object they have in view, I cannot understand how the party opposed to the Government can doubt that they ought to agree to the second reading of the bill that has been introduced. It is true the bill is a bad one, and I certainly could not vote for its passing in its present shape; but it contains provisions for creating new rights of voting, for partially disfranchising some places that now return members to Parliament, and for enfranchising others. These principles, applied more or less extensively, are those on which any possible reform bill must be founded, so that amendments which the committee would have full power to introduce into the bill, as coming within its original principle, might bring it into any shape that might be thought right, even into that recommended by Mr. Bright, if his views should unfortunately gain acceptance."

"But instead of allowing the bill to be thus considered in detail, Lord John Russell will invite the House of Commons to get rid of it by a resolution condemning it on account of defects, which, granting them to be so great as they are alleged to be, might still be removed in the committee. The resolution is to declare the opinion of the House, 'That it is neither just nor politic to interfere in the manner proposed in this bill with the freehold franchise as hitherto exercised in the counties in England and Wales; and that no adjustment of the franchise will satisfy this House or the country which does not provide for a greater extension of the suffrage in cities and boroughs than is contemplated in the present measure.' The importance of the first part of this resolution is taken away by the announcement that the Government intends to modify the part of the bill to which it relates. The second is more material. Its effect would be to pledge the House to some unknown extension of the suffrage in towns, so that it may be supported by persons holding every variety of opinion as to what the borough franchise ought to be, from those who think that it should be very slightly altered, to those who go to the full extent of advocating universal suffrage, with Mr. Ernest Jones."

"A majority in favour of a resolution of this kind might succeed in overthrowing the existing Administration, or in compelling it to dissolve Parliament (the last, in my opinion, would be a great misfortune at the present moment); but I am totally at a loss to see how it would conduce to the safe settlement of the difficult question of reform."

"I must add, that stopping the progress of a bill by voting a resolution in favour of some abstract principle which might be embodied in clauses and moved in committee, is a course which has not very often been pursued by the House of Commons, and never, I believe, with advantage. I hope, therefore, that the resolution which is to be moved will be resisted by yourself and others who prefer the interests of the country to those of a party. In your place I should certainly vote against it, even though I concurred in the principles set forth in the resolution, and were prepared to support them if brought forward in the proper form of amendments in the committee on the bill."

REFORM MEETINGS.

NEW meetings to discuss the reform question are announced every day. Chatham, Carlisle, Rochdale, Bradford, Halifax, Colchester, Hanley, Hull, Leicester, Liverpool, Brighton, Woolwich, have spoken, and all in disavowal of the government measure. In Marylebone and South-wark it has been repudiated; and another meeting was held in Hyde Park on Sunday morning to denounce it. However, here the affair took more of the character of a disreputable row than of a meeting convened for the purpose of considering the merits of a serious political question. At Cambridge, a large reform meeting was broken up by an uproarious mob of gowmsmen.

Mr. Bright exerted himself to considerable effect at Birmingham. He pointed out that he had warned his constituents not to trust the Government. Had he not proved right? The bill offered things that not only nobody wanted, but which men stood aghast at; and refused with the most insolent contempt nearly everything they demand. Going through the provisions of the bill, Mr. Bright denounced the voting-papers, the disfranchisement of freeholders, the tampering with borough boundaries, the permission given to freeholders to vote in boroughs as freeholders, the savings-bank clause, and all the "fancy franchises." He declared that Mr. Disraeli had insulted the country with his "miserable bill;" and said that it was not possible a measure so little worth considering could pass into law. Appealing to the passions of his hearers, he said the middle classes have no patriotism, the working-classes no appetite for freedom, and denounced, as he did in October, the few hundred families who fatten on the £70,000,000 of taxes. With regard to the future, he said:—

"This Government is shattered by dissensions in its own ranks; it is shattered, too, by the enormous—shall I call it blunder or crime?—of proposing this bill. I, as you know, have never said one syllable that could be called factious against the members of this Government. I knew from what we had escaped when this Government was formed. I was glad to see it formed, and I have treated it on all occasions with all the forbearance and all the fairness that, if I were a Minister, and the Ministers were in my place, I should ask from them; but the aspect of things has changed. They have dared to meddle with this question in a manner which no one with a spark of respect for the reform cause can for one moment tolerate. I believe that nothing, not even the dislocation of their opponents, nor the unsavoury character of the preceding Government, will avail to prevent this Government from succumbing."

THE SEPOYS IN THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS.—The "Moulmein Advertiser" states that out of 2,000 sepoy convicts landed on the Andaman Islands, about 1,400 remain alive, the remaining 600 have been cleared off by sickness, desertions, and executions. Some few have received pardons, and have returned to India. The climate appears to be extremely hostile to them, and the hostility of the natives continues the same as ever. It is believed that they have murdered every single convict who escaped.

FATAL ATTEMPT AT A SWINDLE.—The treasurer of the town of Erin, Washington county, U.S., having collected about 15,000 dollars of the town taxes, left home, telling his wife he should be absent all night. Towards night a travelling pedlar applied at the house for a night's lodging. The wife at first refused to admit him, but finally yielded to his request. Some time in the night the pedlar was awakened by the noise of men breaking into his room. Taking them for robbers, he drew a pistol and fired at them. One fell and two fled. Lights being procured, the dead body of a man, with blackened face and otherwise disguised, was found upon the floor. Upon further examination it proved to be the proprietor of the house himself, who had resorted to this stratagem to steal the tax-money collected, and had met with this terrible retribution.

AUSTRIA AND SARDINIA.

THE Minister of Foreign Affairs at Vienna has addressed an important despatch to Count Appony, Austrian Minister in London. It is in answer to the Sardinian circular, which justified the contracting of a loan on the grounds that Austria had concentrated a large force in Lombardy, and seemed to threaten a march on Turin. Count Buol, after acknowledging the friendly intentions of the British Government, enters into an explanation of Austrian policy, past and present. The first ground of complaint which M. de Cavour puts forth is, says the despatch, that Austria exercises a preponderating influence in Italy beyond the limits which treaties have assigned her, and that this constitutes a standing menace against Sardinia. To this charge, the Count replies that it is certainly in the nature of things that great empires should exercise a certain influence on the neighbouring States. All that the world may fairly demand is that this influence shall be never usurped, and that it shall not be employed to the detriment of another State's independence. Austria has indeed given assistance to the legitimate Governments overthrown by revolution, but this assistance has never been imposed on any one; it has only been accorded to rightful authorities, and with complete disinterestedness, for the sake of order and public tranquillity.

"Count de Cavour has not to go back far into the history of his country to meet with an example of this kind of service rendered by Austria to the dynasty of Savoy. At this epoch, it is true, the modern theories of public right brought into fashion by the Count de Cavour had not as yet taken root in Piedmont."

But Count Buol does not dwell on this part of the subject. He stands on the strict letter of international law, and declares that Austria has a right to conclude treaties with foreign Sovereigns, so long as they do not threaten any third Power. What is there, he says,

more inoffensive, more unassailable, more in conformity with the general interest, than treaties of alliance concluded between independent States, and imposing reciprocal obligations on the contracting parties, without in the least affecting the rights of other Powers? It is possible, indeed, says he, that—

"Though these treaties are not in any way opposed to public right, they may hamper the action and the ambitious views of a Government which, not content with full authority within its own dominion, assumes to be the privileged organ of the pretended grievances of Italy, and claims a mission, loudly disavowed by the other Italian Sovereigns, to speak in the name of the whole Peninsula. Although Count Cavour admits the right of appealing to foreign aid when that aid is invoked in the interest of discord, he denies it to legitimate Governments which really have a mission to watch over public tranquillity and guard the interests of their peaceable subjects; and these strange principles are proclaimed by the Cabinet of Turin at a moment when relying for support in its aggressive designs on a great neighbouring Power."

The despatch then goes on to detail the misdeeds of Sardinia—how, when Francis Joseph visited Milan, bent on conciliation, the Piedmontese journals stirred up the people against him; and how the Piedmontese press redoubled its attacks accordingly, "and in its madness even offered a defence of regicide;" how the Sardinians have for ten years never concealed their determination to have a third campaign to recover the laurels lost in 1848; and how, so far from Austria threatening the Sardinian frontier, her troops had only been sent into Italy when the royal speech of Victor Emmanuel announced in no vague terms that hostilities were at hand.

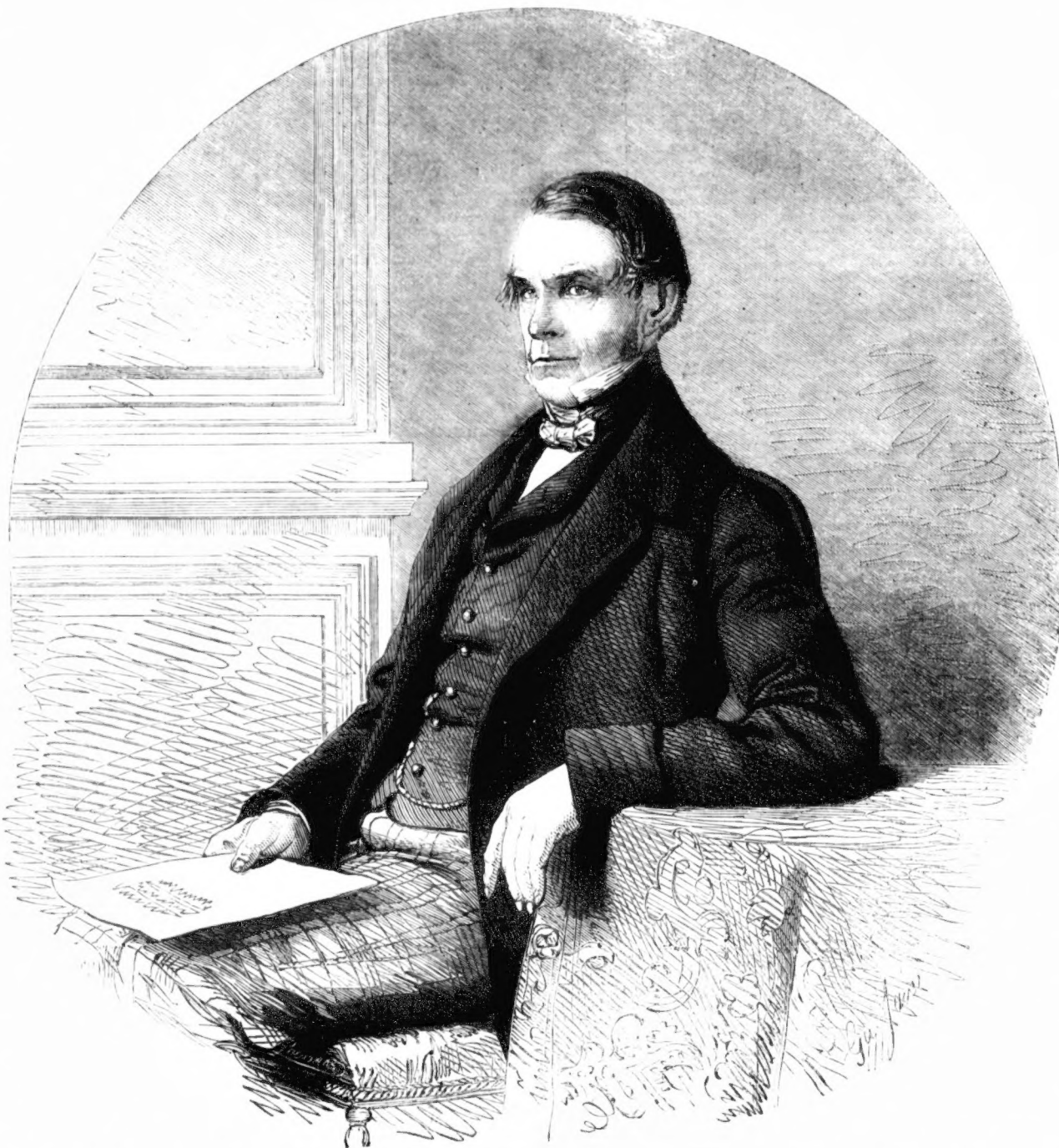
As to the Governments of Central and Southern Italy, and the discontent of their subjects, Count Buol does not affect to say that all is perfect and change uncalled for; but he asserts that the best institutions sometimes

suffer from the imperfection of the instruments. By the introduction of institutions "which work admirably where they have been developed and ripened by ages, but which do not seem suited to the genius, the traditions, or the social condition of the Italians, there has been witnessed in the Peninsula a succession of disorderly scenes and bloody anarchy." Austria has always tried to check these, though with scrupulous respect for foreign rights. This system she will still uphold; she will not enforce on any Italian sovereign a form of government which he opposes, nor declare that the moment has come for reforms in any existing administration. As the Pope is negotiating the evacuation of his dominions by foreign troops, Austria will retire when the Holy Father declares he is strong enough to govern without assistance; but the Viennese Cabinet is of opinion that the difficulties of his government arise much less from internal discontent than from the excitement which is kept up by foreign—that is, Sardinian—influence.

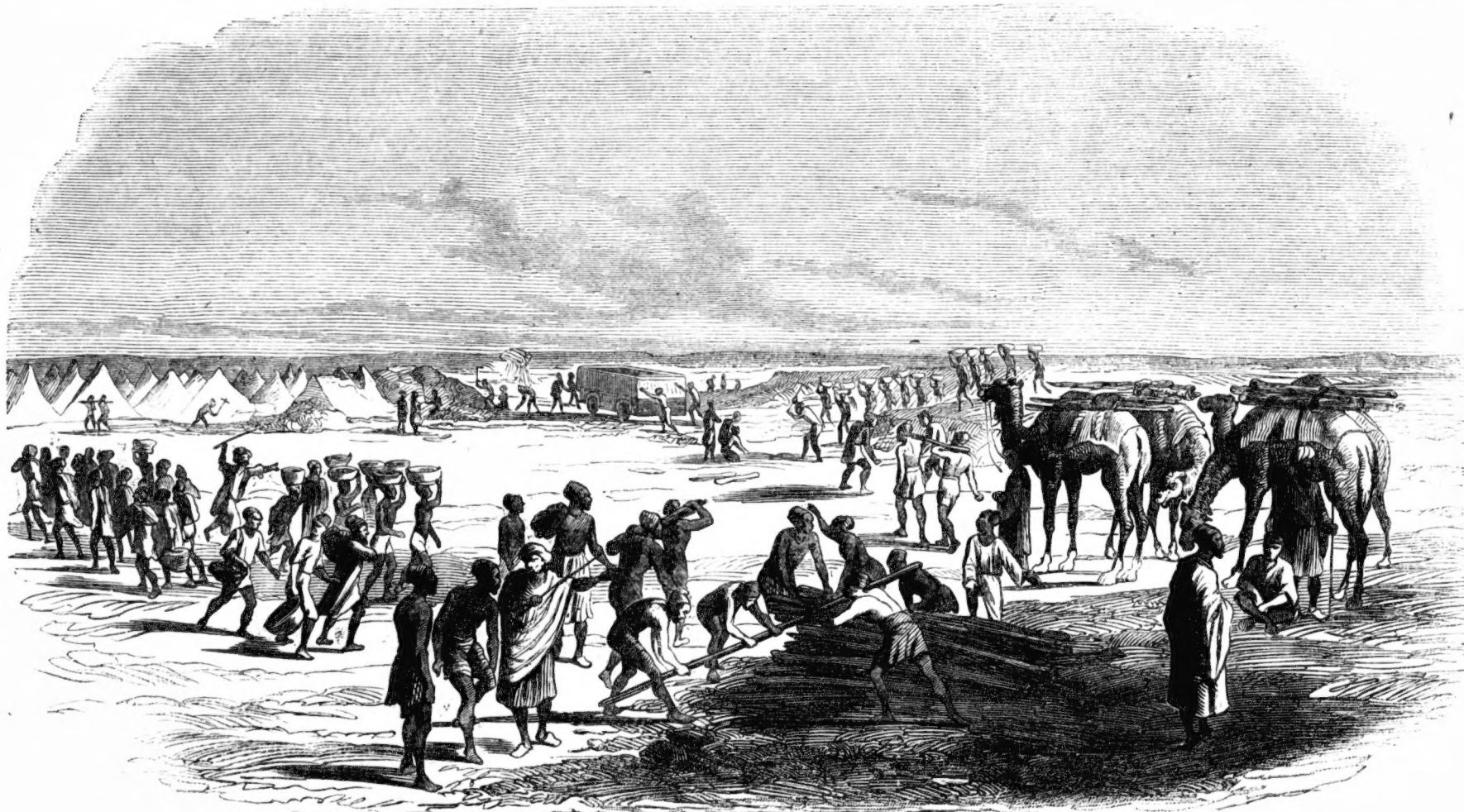
"This is, in a few words, the present position of affairs. In all honour we ask what can we do to improve it? Would it be possible to carry moderation and forbearance further than we have done? And Powers such as Great Britain, who strive for peace so anxiously and so honourably, will they not feel themselves called upon to stop the source of the evil by bringing Piedmont to a more sane appreciation of her rights and international duties? Let their united efforts prevent the Cabinet of Turin from continuing its aggressive conduct, in which it has for some years persisted, abusing the good nature of Europe, and, we do not doubt it, the result would be tranquillity and peace in the rest of the Peninsula, now banished by the continual irritation caused by the Cabinet of Turin."

LORD COWLEY.

LORD COWLEY, who is a nephew of the late Duke of Wellington, was born in 1804, and may be said to have been nurtured from his earliest days in an atmosphere of diplomacy—his father, the first peer of that title, having, while



LORD COWLEY, HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR TO THE COURT OF FRANCE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYER AND PIERSON, PARIS.)



CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAILWAY BETWEEN CAIRO AND SUEZ.

simply Sir H. Wellesley, made himself famous at most of the European courts, during the great Napoleonic struggle. The subject of our memoir commenced official life in 1824 as unpaid *attaché* to the British legation at Vienna, from which he was advanced in 1829, to the post of paid *attaché* at the Hague.

After this, his promotion through the ranks of diplomacy was commensurate with the experience he gained, and the ability he evinced in the conduct of affairs. In 1832, he filled the position of secretary of legation at Stuttgart; and, in 1838, during a period of some difficulty, he occupied the responsible office of secretary of embassy at the Ottoman Porte. While negotiations of great delicacy were pending, he was despatched, in 1848, as minister plenipotentiary to Switzerland, whence, extending the benefits which always attended his efforts, he proceeded to Frankfort. In 1851, a crisis of some importance occurred in the re-establishment of quiet in Germany, and he acted during this anxious period as minister plenipotentiary to the Germanic Confederation. As the common interests of the courts of the Tuileries and St. James's became more identified, the Government of this coun-

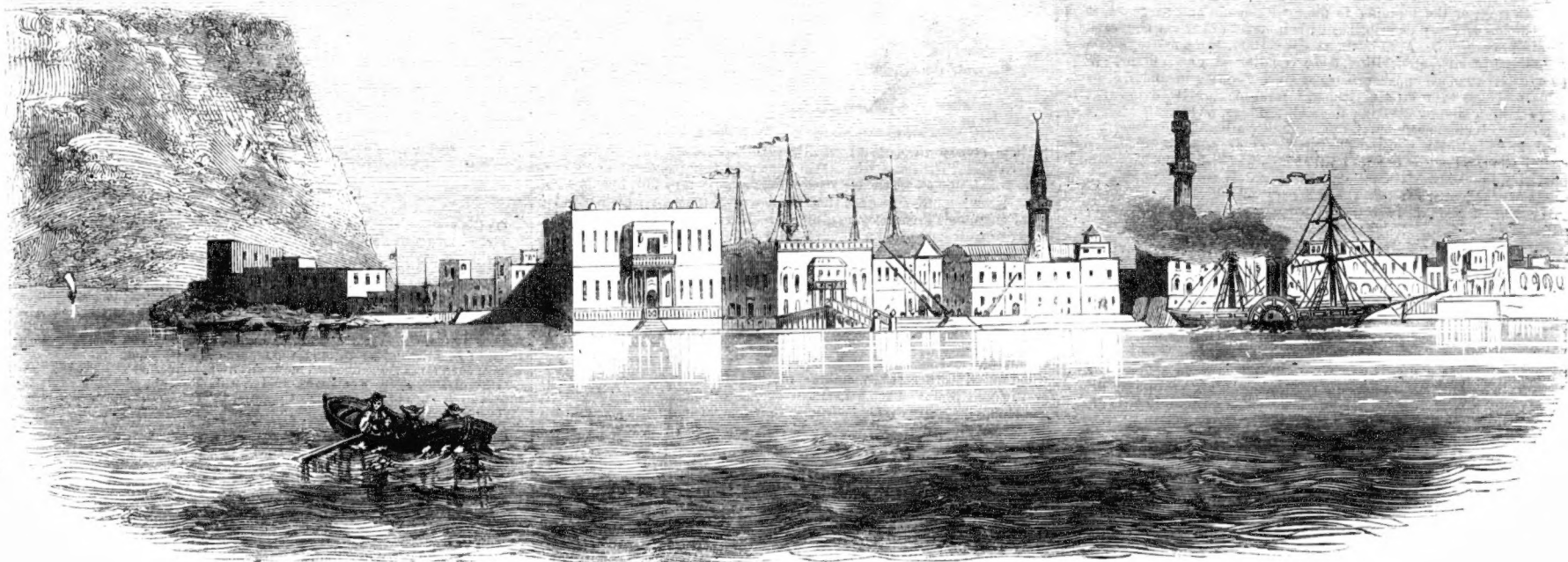
try could find no fitter person to represent its interests at the Imperial court of France; and, in 1852, he succeeded Lord Normanby in the high position of ambassador at Paris.

However adapted Lord Cowley may be to pull the strings of diplomacy, he has still been found wanting in a quality not easily overlooked by our pleasure-loving neighbours. This short-coming is nothing less than a certain insensibility to the claims of hospitality, and those social observances so greatly considered by the *monde Parisien*. When the kitchen chimneys of the embassy are seen to emit more than their usually thin columns of smoke, it even affords a matter of comment to our neighbours.

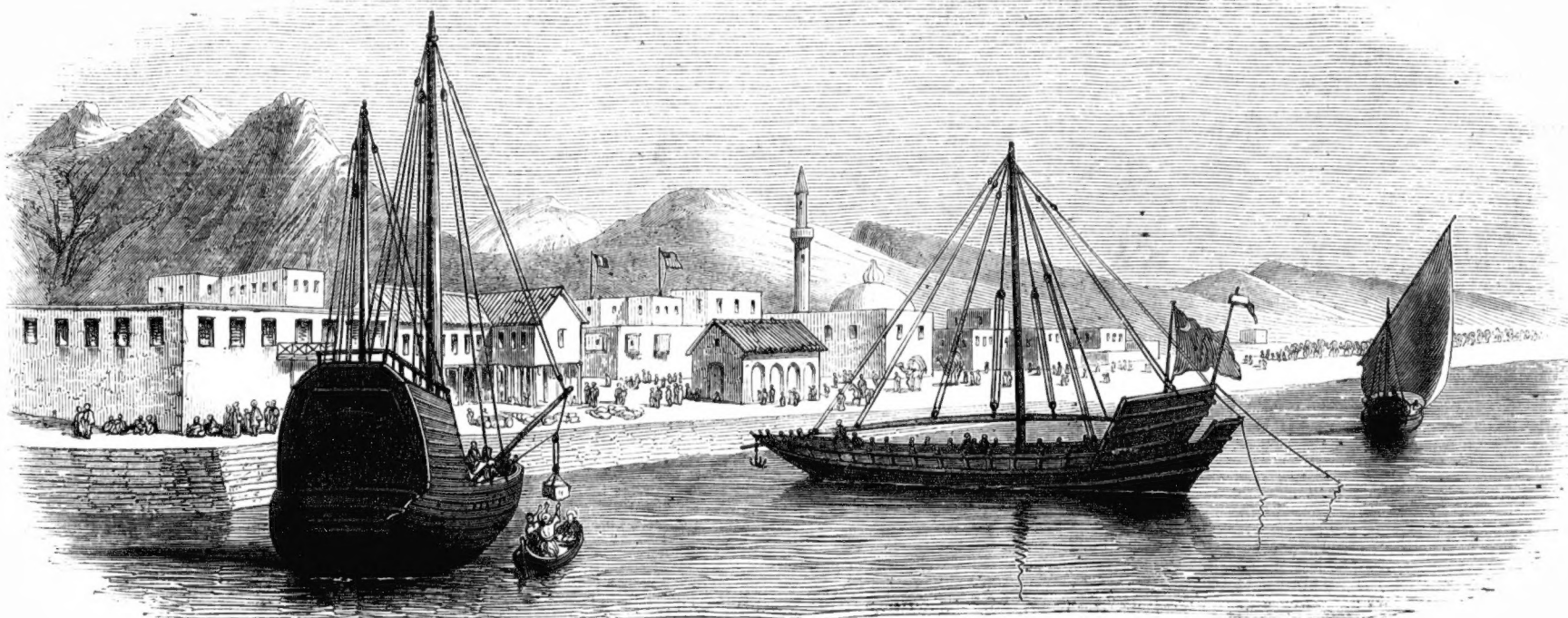
The mission lately intrusted to Lord Cowley is another proof of the confidence in which he is held by her Majesty's Government; and though by all accounts his Lordship has not wholly succeeded in attaining the object for which he was despatched, there is ample proof that his visit to Vienna has not been altogether barren in its results. He was received at the Austrian court with great distinction, and even our querulous allies have found no subject for complaint therein.



DESERT POSTING BETWEEN CAIRO AND SUEZ.



VIEW OF SUEZ.



ARAB BOATS IN THE HARBOUR OF SUEZ.

FROM CAIRO TO SUEZ.

FORMERLY a journey from Cairo to Suez could only be accomplished in the manner in which it is still performed by the inhabitants of the desert—viz., on camels' backs. Under the government of Mehemet Ali, a road was made by which wheeled vehicles could proceed from the one place to the other. Now, the railway commenced in 1853 is completed. It runs from Alexandria, by the way of Cairo, to Suez, thus forming a junction between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

The railway takes a course somewhat different from that of the former overland road. It runs from Cairo eastward by way of Abdiach, in the desert, round the mountain-chains of Jaffra and Jebel-Auebel, and then proceeds in a straight line from Mentalla to Suez. This important work was planned by Stephenson, but subsequently the undertaking was assigned to a French engineer. The line between Cairo and Suez did not require many expensive constructions and excavations, but between Alexandria and Cairo it was necessary to bridge over the Nile at two different points. One of the bridges is already completed, and for the other a ferry is temporarily substituted. In the desert, the progress of the works was much retarded by the want of water; considerable delay being incurred by bringing water from Cairo. The direction of the railway is, for the most part, rectilinear, and the few curves that intervene take an extended sweep. There is to be a double line of rails; but only one is yet laid down.

To European eyes, an Egyptian railway continually presents a series of curious pictures. The third-class carriages are usually filled with turbaned heads. Occasionally, a whole harem of veiled females, with their attendant retinue of black eunuchs, take possession of first or second-class carriages. The classes of the carriages are inscribed in Arabic characters on the panels. At the stations are always assembled crowds of dusky-complexioned, black-eyed Fellah women, habited in blue garments. They offer for sale Arabian barley-bread, eggs, oranges, and cheese. In the back-ground are flocks of camels laden with fresh supplies. There are no guards on the Egyptian railway, and most of the engine-drivers are from England, France, or Germany.

We will now follow the course of the railway, through the desert, to the harbour on the Red Sea, about which so much has been said during the last few months. Suez is a miserable place: it is situated in a barren tract of country, in which are neither trees nor water-springs, and is surrounded by salt marshes and barren hills. With the exception of the English hotel, or caravanserai, the town is composed entirely of mud huts. It contains about 3,000 inhabitants. In the streets, with the exception of those immediately abutting on the landing place, dead stillness prevails; in short, Suez can claim no distinctive interest, except that it was the place whence the children of Israel, led by Moses, passed across the Red Sea.

Our illustration represents the town, as seen from the sea. The large building is the English hotel. The mountain, on the left, Jebel-Atbaka, is four miles distant from the town, though, owing to the clear, cloudless atmosphere, it has the appearance of rising immediately behind Suez.

The harbour is very bad; or, more properly speaking, Suez has no harbour. Immediately in front of the town, the sea is, to the distance of about a mile and a half, so clogged with sand and mud, that the large East India steamers cannot approach the place, and it is necessary to land the passengers either by the Arab boats or the small flat-bottomed steamers built for the purpose by the Transit Company.

The turmoil and confusion which arise when great numbers of passengers have to be landed by this process, are inconceivable. The bustle continues even after the guests are lodged in the caravanserai, and indeed until they are fairly off on their journey across the desert. The space in front of the building is filled with boxes and packages, carts and vehicles of every description, with hundreds of asses and camels, waiting to be hired. Arab boatmen and porters, coachmen and camel-drivers, are roaring, quarrelling, and struggling with each other. English and Egyptian custom-house officers are running to and fro, comparing packages with bills of lading. Wild-looking Bedouins are sitting in groups, silently smoking their chibouques, or relating stories to each other, undisturbed by the surrounding tumult. At length the signal for departure is given. The travellers start off, dashing fearlessly through the sand of the desert, until at length, beyond the last mountain-chain, the verdant Nile valley, with its stately palms, and the white buildings of Cairo, are seen in the distance.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 91
A ROW.

WHEN the motion for the second reading of Mr. Walpole's church-rate bill was before the House, one of those uproarious rows broke out, which we should fancy can be heard in no legislative assembly in the world but the English House of Commons. On Wednesday, when the House meets at twelve o'clock, it must, by a standing order, break up at six; and at a quarter to six—whoever may be speaking, and however important the subject—Mr. Speaker rises, the orator drops into his seat, and the debate is adjourned. This inexorable rule offers a strong temptation to honourable members, who wish to prevent a division, to attempt to "talk the House out." It requires great fluency, power of lungs, and strength of will, to perform this achievement; but it has often been done. Mr. Francis Scully, late member for Tipperary, once occupied the whole of a Wednesday sitting with a speech on the Mayothon grant; and when stopped by the rising of the Speaker, finished by saying, amid shouts of cheers and laughter, that "he was sorry to be obliged to postpone the consideration of twenty more points, which he had noted down, to a future occasion." Mr. Scully, however, had the advantage of talking to a House in his favour. The Mayothon question is considered to be a standing bore—all parties dislike it—and Mr. Scully was cheered and encouraged to defeat the motion in this unparliamentary way; but when Mr. Banks Stanhope tried the same manoeuvre on Wednesday, the 9th, he was in a different case: a considerable majority of the House was anxious for a division, and when his purpose was clearly discerned, and as the hands of the clock slowly but surely moved towards the fatal hour, he was met by a hurricane of cries which would have appalled any one but a man of the strongest nerves. But Mr. Stanhope was equal to the occasion. He has plenty of words at command, possesses a stentorian voice, and is evidently a man of dogged resolution. He began his speech at twenty minutes past five, and for ten minutes or so was listened to, if not with attention, without interruption; but at half-past, his aim was discerned and the row began. And such a row we do not remember that we ever heard before. The House was well filled, for members had come down in considerable numbers specially for the division. Every seat in the House was occupied, and "below the bar" a dense crowd was assembled. Those latter gentlemen first began the row. They had come to divide, and were mortified at the prospect of being balked; but they were soon joined by others, and at last there broke forth a simultaneous blast of indescribable noises, that seemed powerful enough to blow the cause of it out of his place.

MR. DISRAELI STOPS IT.

But Mr. Stanhope stood it out bravely, continued gesticulating and perorating, his voice occasionally rising in clear tones above the elemental strife, and would have gained the victory if he had been permitted by his chief to go on. But, though Mr. Stanhope would not give way to the clamour of the Opposition, he felt bound to obey a simple hint which came to him from another quarter. This was a government measure, and it seemed suddenly to have occurred to Mr. Disraeli that to allow a partisan of the Ministry to prevent a division upon a government measure in this side-way would not be proper; he therefore sent a request to Mr. Banks Stanhope at twenty minutes to six to cease, whereupon he suddenly pulled up in the middle of a sentence, dropped into his seat, the storm was in a moment turned into a calm, and the division immediately took place. It has been remarked that ever since Mr. Disraeli has been in office he has paid a marked deference to the will of the House. We may, however, say that this respect to the House has always been his characteris-

tic. To individuals he can be severe and sometimes scathing, but to the collective House he has generally been most deferential.

WHY DOES NOT THE SPEAKER INTERFERE?

We have been often asked why Mr. Speaker does not interfere to put a stop to these unseemly disturbances? The answer is, his interference on such an occasion would be useless. He might call, "Order!" but his voice would not be heard; or he might arise, and then there would be a lull, but, on his resuming his seat, the storm would break out more furiously than ever. And besides this, it must be remembered that, though these attempts to talk the House out are within the letter of the rules and must not be interfered with by the Speaker, they are certainly opposed to the spirit of those rules, and it is, perhaps, considered to be convenient on the whole to allow the House to deal with these attempts in this rough way, though it may not be quite orderly. They are offences which the regularly-constituted authorities cannot reach, and therefore the members are allowed to deal with them themselves. It is the same when bores persist in wasting the time of the House with long wordy harangues which no one will listen to, and which cannot lead to any good result. It is absolutely necessary at times to put down these nuisances. Mr. Speaker of course cannot do it, but he does all he can by quietly allowing the House to do it. In the best-regulated states there will always be offences which the state cannot touch without interfering too much with the liberty of the subject. For these offences the people themselves must extemporise a remedy.

EOTHEN KINGLAKE.

There are two Mr. Kinglakes in the House; both are named Alexander, and both are barristers by profession. One is named Alexander William, and the other John Alexander; but it is the latter whom we have now to notice. Alexander William is Mr. Sergeant Kinglake, who is now a barrister in considerable practice. John Alexander gave up his practice, which was never large, in 1836. He and his kinsman came into Parliament in 1837—the Sergeant for Rochester, his cousin for Bridgewater. Mr. Sergeant Kinglake is noted only as a successful lawyer, but Mr. John Alexander Kinglake has achieved a wide-spread reputation as an author, although he has published but one volume, and that not a large one. It is, however, though small in volume, a great book, and has already become one of the classics of our language. Mr. Eöthen Kinglake (for so he is now pretty generally called) is a man of rather singular appearance, but we know not that he would have attracted notice here had not his fame as a writer preceded him. He is rather under the middle height, wears a formidable moustache, and large, round, powerfully-magnifying spectacles. When we first saw him, we were obliged to confess to a disappointment. "We had read 'Eöthen,'" and had placed Mr. Kinglake amongst our literary gods. And when he was first pointed out to us, we turned eagerly to look at the man who had so suddenly risen to fame on the strength of one small volume of travels, but, as we have said, we were disappointed, and though we have seen him often since, we have not been called upon to correct our first impressions. Mr. Kinglake is an uncommon-looking man; but after repeated observations, we see no indications of his power. But it must be remembered that we have only seen Mr. Kinglake in the lobby and in the House—in the lobby, which is so large and massive that it dwarfs and makes everybody look mean; and in the House, at a distance which precludes close observation, and where the light is so arranged as to distort the features of the members when they have their hats off, and to throw their faces into shade when they sit covered. Perhaps in a smaller chamber our impression of Mr. Kinglake's appearance might be corrected. Mr. Kinglake's advent into the House excited considerable expectations in the literary world, but it is not too much to say that they have hitherto been disappointed. Mr. Kinglake's first speech was almost a break-down. At every successive attempt, though he increased in confidence, he failed to command the House. And in his last display, that terribly long speech on the *Charles-et-Georges* affair, when he spoke for two hours and a half, he so completely wearied the House that we fear that we must reluctantly come to the decision that this brilliant writer is another parliamentary failure. We have always thought that our literary men do not consult their fame when they aspire to the House of Commons. It is ten to one against their succeeding; and if they fail, how is their fame damaged, and how does the nimbus of glory with which popular fancy surrounds them become dimmed? Let them, like the gods of old, speak to us from behind a cloud. They always become vulgarised, and lose their power, when they descend into the arena of worldly strife.

SIR HUGH MCALMONT CAIRNS, SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

Mr. Kinglake is a parliamentary failure; while Sir Hugh McAlmont Cairns is what is called a parliamentary success, a rising man, and will probably, if he live and has luck, attain to the highest honours of his profession. Just now the House is very loud in praise of Sir Hugh Cairns—he is considered to be the strength of the Government; and when he arises to speak, members nestle into their seats, and there is everywhere profound attention, whilst, when poor Mr. Kinglake rises, the House dwindles away, and those that remain will hardly give him a decent hearing; and yet, reader, we venture to say that Mr. Kinglake is far away the clearest thinker and the greatest man. Do you ask, "How it is that Sir Hugh Cairns stands so much higher in the House than Mr. Kinglake?" We answer, Sir Hugh has the tact and talent to tell what he knows *à la* *voce* in attractive language, and with graceful action. Few men can do this better than our Solicitor-General. He is full of commanding and handsome presence, and knows how to make every word tell by suiting the word to the action, and the action to the word. Did you notice how, amidst the ecstatic cheers of the House, especially of the Conservative members, he floored and doubled up Mr. Locke King the other day by that quotation from Montaigne, on the subject of the division of the real property of persons dying intestate? Nothing, in our opinion, was ever more cleverly done. Every word was emphasized aright, and the manner in which he held out the paper from which he read to his opponent, was most graceful and effective. And yet, we venture to say, that very few speeches that have been delivered in our time have been stuffed so full of fallacies as that graceful and effective oration; and especially was the last sentence, which excited so much applause, fallacious. But it was the manner that did it. "Manners maketh man" is written over one of the college gateways at Oxford, and certainly manner maketh your successful parliamentary speaker. It is not so much the amount of wisdom that you have, as the manner in which you can display it, that is important here to your success. As, in Regent Street, it is not enough to have a large stock of excellent goods, if you cannot set them off in an attractive form in your shop window, so here we are led away by appearances—deceived by glitter; and the man who cannot dress his shop window artistically will have no attention paid to his wares. Sir Hugh Cairns can present his wares in the most artistic form—he knows how exactly to hit the popular taste; all which Mr. Kinglake cannot do. And, therefore, whilst Cairns is applauded to the echo, "Eöthen" is heard in silence. But, to go back to our figure, as it is not uncommon to find that the tradesman who makes but little show has the most valuable stock, so it often happens that he who can talk the most readily—dress out his mental wares most artistically—is not the wisest of men. Sir Hugh Cairns is an acute lawyer, a clever debater; but we have yet to learn that he is anything more.

PHASES OF THE POLITICAL KALEIDOSCOPE.

The political kaleidoscope has received another shake, and yet another, during the past week, and every time a new view of political parties has been presented. My Lord John is to move an amendment on the second reading of the bill; Mr. Divett is to meet it with a motion of postponement for six months. Mr. Berkeley is to try to tack on to it the ballot; and, as if all these motions and amendments were not enough, little Mr. Cox is to propose that the House do proceed in this matter by way of resolution. The latter move is clearly a plagiarism from Lord John's on the Indian question last year. Then, it will be remembered, the wily Chancellor accepted the helping hand of the Noble Lord; but it is doubtful whether he will feel it to be compatible

with his dignity to consent to be saved by Mr. Cox. The confusion in the House is even more confounded than it was last week, and every day it becomes more and still more complicated. When the Government Reform Bill was first launched, the general opinion was that it could not pass the second reading; but notwithstanding all the meetings that have been held, and the correspondence that has taken place between members and their constituents, there is, whilst we write, dimly looming through the haze, a growing conviction that somehow or other it will rub through. But all is uncertain. Before we get down to the House again something may have turned up; some other shake may have been given to the kaleidoscope, which will altogether change the position of parties, and once more the Conservative hopes may be dashed, and the Radical prospects be brightened. At present—by which we mean the present hour and nothing beyond—betting is in favour of the second reading. Meanwhile we have to report that the anxiety to get into the House next Monday is intense. Monday last was the day when the book in which members insert the names of their friends for the Speaker's gallery was opened, and before a quarter past eleven (the book was not opened until eleven) every place was bespoken; and the case was the same with the ladies' gallery; indeed the applications for admission to the latter were so numerous that the Sergeant-at-Arms was obliged to have recourse to the ballot. But, of course, the great debate will not be finished on Monday. We should imagine that it will certainly last the week through—and, perhaps, the next week also. Some morning within the next fourteen or fifteen days, just as the birds are chirping, and the sun is peeping over the eastern hills, this perplexing question will be settled—somehow.

Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, MARCH 14.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

LORD GREY withdrew a notice of motion for papers relative to the Ionian Islands. He had taken this course, not from any change in his own opinions on the matter, but because he had received a letter from Lord Derby pointing out the great injury which would accrue to the public interest, and the fresh difficulties which it would throw in the way of administering the government of the Ionian Islands.

LORD DERBY said he was solely actuated by the public interests in suggesting the present course to Lord Grey. There were parts of the Ionian correspondence which it would be impossible to produce; and any discussion at this crisis was much to be deprecated. He eulogised the conduct of Mr. Gladstone, who had undertaken a very thankless and invidious task in the most disinterested spirit. He had accepted the appointment only on condition that he should not receive any salary, but only his expenses. True, the mission had been attended with no positive result, but it had shown that Great Britain was not the oppressor, but the protector of the Septinsular Republic.

THE INSOLVENT CLERGY.

The report of the amendments on the Debtor and Creditor Bill was brought up.

LORD ST. LEONARDS moved that a clause be added to the bill, which would have the effect of enabling the bishop of the diocese, in cases where the conduct of an insolvent clergyman had not rendered him unworthy of occupying the pulpit, to allow him the same income that, if absent, he would have to pay a curate; and that the remainder of his income should be appropriated to the discharge of his debts. He described, in a lengthy speech, the inconveniences and injustice of the present system of sequestrating livings, and the evils which resulted therefrom to the parishioners.

The Bishop of London would offer no opposition to the clause, although it appeared to him and to other bishops wrong in principle. The clergy should not be led away by the idea that they would not have to pay their debts.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that Lord St. Leonards should bring forward a measure on the question of sequestrating livings himself, as he was not disposed to the task. The bill before the House was not intended to apply to them.

After a few words from Lord ELENBOROUGH, on a division whether the clause should be added to the bill, it was negatived by a majority of 9, the numbers being 9 for and 18 against.

The report was then agreed to. After some further business of an unimportant nature, the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MAGISTRACY APPOINTMENTS.

On the motion, that the House at its rising do adjourn until Monday, Mr. T. DUNCAN asked the Home Secretary for an explanation of the recent large addition to the magistracy of Huntingdon. On three causes, he observed, could be assigned for this addition—first, that there must be a large increase of crime in the county; second, that those now in the commission of the peace had neglected their duty; third, that it was to please political partisans.

Mr. S. ESCOT said that the Home Secretary had no control over these appointments, which rested with the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Lieutenant; and then going through the names of the new magistrates, he contended that Mr. Duncane had made out no case against any one of them.

General PERL, Mr. FELLOWS, and Sir J. PAKINGTON made some remarks in defence of the appointments, and the subject dropped.

COMPENSATION TO PROCTORS.

In reply to questions put by Mr. HADFIELD, THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated that the aggregate annual amount of the compensation to proctors and other officers of the late Ecclesiastical Courts would not exceed £130,000. This amount included the compensations to the proctors and officers in both England and Ireland. The motion for adjournment was agreed to.

OUR NAVAL EXPENDITURE.

LORD C. PAGET moved a resolution, that it is desirable that a statement showing the proposed expenditure in the construction and conversion of her Majesty's ships be annually laid before the House with the Navy Estimates. He observed that this practice of laying before the House detailed estimates for works costing above £1,000, instead of a gross sum, was founded in reason and good policy; it would give Parliament the same control over ship-building as over barracks and other public works. He read a calculation of what had been expended in shipbuilding for eleven years, which gave the following results:—For ships built, £5,993,000; for conversions, £630,000; for maintenance, £5,929,000; for ships in ordinary, &c., £550,000; making a total of £13,501,000, or, including contingencies, £14,000,000. This was the creditor side of the Admiralty; on the debtor side the sums voted for the navy during the eleven years was £19,399,944, leaving a deficit of £5,000,000. How had this money been spent? In reckless and extravagant alterations.

SIR J. PAKINGTON said, giving Lord Clarence credit for the best intentions, he had heard his speech with the deepest regret; its only effect could be to make the public believe, at a time when a great effort was required, that those who were bound to make it were not trustworthy. His (Sir John's) belief was that he had not looked into the details of his statement so closely as he ought to have done. He analysed the statement, and referred to a counter-statement, which showed, that, in the former, large items had been omitted, and that, instead of £5,000,000 being unaccounted for, there was no balance to be accounted for at all.

SIR C. NAPIER said the only fault he found with the motion was, that it did not go further, and require the reconstruction of the Board of Admiralty, the constant changes in which were the cause of all the waste and extravagance.

MR. OSBORNE observed that, whatever gratitude might be owing by the country to Lord C. Paget for his statement, the House would pause and do justice to an absent man. Lord Clarence had taken a period of eleven years, during which he had alleged there had been a deficit of £5,000,000 in the expenditure of the ship-building department of the Admiralty, and Sir Baldwin Walker, who was the only permanent officer of the board during that period, must necessarily consider the attack to be made upon him, as having created this deficit. After preferring such a charge, and if the department was so rotten, Lord Clarence was bound to move for a select committee to investigate it.

SIR F. BARING said the return sought for by Lord C. Paget would produce no effect in checking expenditure; why did he not move for a committee? The House must not take his Lordship's statement for granted; it ought not to be content with vague accusations; there should be an investigation.

The discussion was continued by Sir G. PEACHELL, Mr. M. GIBSON, and Lord J. HAY. Sir J. ELPHINSTONE strongly urged the appointment of a committee; and Mr. LINDSAY suggested that a select committee be moved for to inquire into naval expenditure.

SIR C. WOOD agreed with Sir F. Baring that this being a cowardly an attack upon the system did not prevent its being, in fact, a most painful

attack upon a faithful public officer. It was impossible to follow Lord C. Paget through his figures, which required very careful and accurate examination to ascertain whether they were trustworthy or not.

Mr. CORRY enumerated items excluded from Lord C. Paget's statement which covered the amount of the alleged deficiency.

Lord J. RUSSELL thought the House was not in a condition to prescribe any particular form of the estimates; but it was not satisfactory that the whole statement of Lord C. Paget, carefully prepared, should be set aside, and that the House should have no inquiry into the matter. The observations made in the debate had left an impression on his mind that there ought to be some further inquiry. There was no wish to inculpate any particular person; but it was desirable to know whether the building and maintaining our ships were conducted with economy.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the Government had no objection to an inquiry. They had already appointed committees to inquire minutely into the naval expenditure, whose reports would be laid before the House, which would be then in a condition to say whether fuller information was required.

Mr. T. G. BAKING pointed out errors in Lord C. Paget's statement to the extent of £2,200,000.

The House divided, when the motion of Lord C. Paget was negatived by 175 to 95.

The House then went into committee of supply on the Navy Estimates, when a sum of £995,647 was voted for victualling the navy.

The East India Loan Bill passed through committee.

Other Bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, MARCH 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords had a very short sitting on Monday. The Ecclesiastical Courts and Regulation (Ireland) Bill was read a third time, and passed; Lord STANLEY of Alderley made some remarks on the system of guarantees to electric telegraph companies; the LORD CHANCELLOR introduced a bill relating to the building of new courts of chancery in Lincoln's Inn; and then their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LORD CLARENCE PAGET'S MOTION.

Sir J. PAKINGTON announced that with reference to the alleged deficiency of £5,000,000 in the naval expenditure during the last eleven years, he should lay upon the table, in the course of a day or two, a full statement of the manner in which the money voted had been appropriated.

THE DRAINAGE OF THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS asked the Hon. Member for Bath, as a member of the Metropolitan Board, what steps had been taken with reference to the main drainage of the metropolis.

Mr. TICE said a portion of the works had already been commenced, and the contracts for the rest would be entered into as soon as possible. The whole works would be completed in four years, and it was expected that the sum of £3,500,000, required for their construction, which the bankers had lent at 3½ per cent., would be paid off in thirty years instead of forty, as originally estimated.

THE TITLE TO LAND.

The House having resolved itself into a committee on the Title to Landed Estates Bill,

Mr. MALINS objected to the Bill, first, because it was proposed that it should be optional, which would limit its operation; secondly, because, instead of being general and universal, it excluded settled estates, copyhold estates, estates for years or lives, and every other estate less than the fee simple. He entered into many technical details to show the practical evils which would, in his opinion, result from the measure, especially as regarded the rights of parties absent or incapable, or out of possession, and the difficulties that would narrow its operation.

Mr. HEADLAM did not deny that there were difficulties inherent in the measure, and that, possibly, some persons might be wronged by a judicial declaration of title, but a risk so small was, he thought, no reason for rejecting the measure.

Mr. BOWYER and Mr. HADFIELD spoke against the Bill.

Mr. WALPOLE defended it. The objections to the Bill were very small, he observed, in comparison with its advantages.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, in defending the bill, said that under his provisions there would be a more searching and complete investigation of title than now took place upon the sale or transfer of estates.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL doubted whether sufficient business would arise under the bill to justify the creation of a new and separate court, with an expensive staff of judges and officers, and suggested that, in the first instance, the business should be entrusted to the Court of Chancery, or to the superior courts of Westminster Hall.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL assigned reasons why the existing courts could not undertake the business.

Mr. MALINS, in reply, raised a fresh cloud of difficulties which he represented as impending over the measure.

Mr. CARDWELL thought the bill would effect one of the greatest and most beneficial changes which had ever been made in the law of this country. He congratulated the Solicitor-General upon having had the privilege of introducing such a bill.

Three clauses were then agreed to, and the House resumed.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

Upon the motion for going into committee of supply upon the navy estimates,

Mr. W. WILLIAMS moved as an amendment that the estimates be referred to a select committee, justifying the motion on the ground of the inefficiency of the navy, notwithstanding a sum of £300,000,000 had been spent upon it since 1816.

The amendment was seconded by Sir H. VERNY.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY said the inquiry would be of more utility if it were limited to some salient points in the naval expenditure. He recommended an inquiry as to how the estimates could be better prepared.

Mr. LINDSAY, believing the expenditure upon the navy lavish, would vote for an inquiry into it; but could not support the amendment, as it would take away the responsibility from the executive.

Colonel SYKES was in favour of inquiry, as the navy estimates were now a public matter which they were in 1835, without any corresponding increase of efficiency.

Admiral WALCOTT considered that, if the estimates were referred to a committee, the expenditure would increase, as all responsibility would be removed from the Government.

Sir FRANCIS BAKING admitted the importance of having an inquiry, but thought it was not advisable to transfer the consideration of the estimates from the House of Commons to a select committee. He regretted that the Government had not themselves instituted an inquiry; but he objected to the present proposal, as it would delay the voting of the necessary supplies to an inconvenient period.

Lord C. PAGET protested against its being supposed, from the observations he made on Friday evening, that he intended to attack Sir Baldwin Walker.

Sir J. PAKINGTON made a general reply. He had no objections to inquiry provided it was so shaped as not to impede or injure the public service. He would lay on the table every possible information respecting the naval expenditure; and as every department of the Admiralty was now strained with business, he trusted that Mr. Williams would withdraw his amendment.

Mr. OSBORNE said, after the charges which had been made by Lord C. Paget, the House should not be content with settling the question by the production of a paper. The department had been damaged by the statement of an admiral in her Majesty's service, and he should not be satisfied without a committee. He disputed Lord Clarence's figures and challenged his facts, and pledged himself to controvert his statements before the committee.

After some further debate, the motion of Mr. Williams was negatived.

MASACRE AT UNALLA.

Mr. C. GILPIN called the attention of the House to the destruction of the 26th Native Infantry at Unalla, on the 1st of August, 1857, as detailed in a work entitled "The Crisis in the Punjab," by Mr. Frederick Cooper, deputy commissioner of Unritzur. He described the affair as the darkest page in the black book of the Indian rebellion; and founded his complaint entirely upon the account given by Mr. Cooper himself, who jauntily claimed for his acts the approbation of the public, and the sacred sanction of the Almighty. He stated that after the men had surrendered upon the promise of a fair trial, 237 were shot by the direction of Mr. Cooper, 45 were killed, and 41 blown away from the guns at Lahore, making, with those who had been destroyed before, no less than 500 human beings, who, without any trial whatever, were ruthlessly butchered within forty-eight hours.

General THOMPSON said his only hope was that these atrocious acts, which were unparalleled in pagan or mediæval ages, had been committed by a man suffering from insanity.

Lord STANLEY said it was impossible to read of these transactions without feelings of pain and regret, which were greatly increased by the tone and spirit in which they were described, both in the despatch written at the time, and in the book subsequently published. Mr. Cooper spoke of this great sacrifice of human life—not in the heat of action, nor after judicial process—with a dippancy, levity, and exultation, which could not but be blamed. With regard to the circumstances of the case, there could be no doubt that the regiment was in a state of insurrection, and probably it gave some strong provocation to those who subsequently sacrificed these men. The House should also recollect that it was by inspiring terror, as well as by force, that the Punjab was saved; and, if the Punjab had gone, the

whole of India would have been lost. Still, he could have wished that such an indiscriminate execution had not taken place, and that a selection of culprits had been made for punishment, by way of example. Having given this explanation, he trusted the House would pass over the matter with that judicious silence which was the best comment upon such transactions.

The subject then dropped.

The House then went into committee of supply, and the remainder of the evening was chiefly occupied in the discussion of votes upon the navy estimates. The House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

STADE DUES.

Still, little business in the House of Lords. Replying to a question from the Earl of Clarendon,

The Earl of MALMESBURY stated that negotiations were still in progress with Hanover for the abolition of the Stade Dues.

Some bills were forwarded through a stage of progress, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHURCH-RATES.

Sir J. TRELAUNY having moved the second reading of the Church-Rate Abolition Bill,

Mr. D. GRIFFITH moved, by way of amendment, the following resolution:—"That any amendment of the law relating to church-rates which should exempt persons contributing to the support of some other place of worship than the parish church from the payment of the rate, at the same time that the existing machinery for the support of the fabric of the Church of England should be continued in operation upon the members of her own communion, is worthy of the consideration of this House." The Hon. Member proceeded to argue in favour of some compromise on the church-rate question, objecting to the measure before the House as precluding all discussion by a naked proposition for the extinction of the state church.

The HOME SECRETARY hoped that this amendment would not be pressed, but that an opportunity might be afforded for a direct vote on the bill brought forward by Sir J. Trelawny.

Mr. STUART having briefly spoken to a similar effect, the amendment was withdrawn.

Mr. B. HOPKIN moved that the bill should be read a second time that day six months. He recapitulated many of the arguments so often urged against similar propositions in previous debates, stigmatising the measure as being intended to destroy the Established Church.

This amendment was seconded by Mr. DEEDS.

Mr. B. OSBORNE supported the bill, contending that the time for compromise was past. The question had been under discussion for twenty years, and many adjustments proposed, but none had proved acceptable, and no course was left for closing the controversy but an absolute abolition of the disputed impost.

Mr. S. WORTLEY declared that after much consideration he had arrived at a similar conclusion. The church-rate might, or might not, be unjust to dissenters, but was certainly injurious to the Church. He wished only to stipulate for the addition of a clause making some provision for the maintenance of the fabric of the parish church, in places where no local funds were obtainable.

Mr. S. HERBERT objected to the bill, which, he said, would perpetrate an injustice upon the Church by abolishing the rate without providing any substitute.

Lord JOHN MANNERS and Mr. PACE also opposed the bill.

Mr. GREENWOOD acknowledged himself a convert to the principle of abolition. With the sincerest desire to promote the true interests of the Established Church he felt it impossible longer to uphold the existing system of church-rates.

Sir J. TRELAUNY replied, and, upon a division, the second reading was carried by 242 to 168.

At the evening sitting, the House was counted out.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Mr. BAINES supported it. The bill proposed to do away with no less than twenty Acts of Parliament on the subject, and consolidate into one Act of Parliament the whole statute law. The measure further proposed to facilitate voluntary arrangements which were most difficult at present, and also to reduce the expenses attendant on bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL agreed with the principle of the bill, but suggested that after the second reading it should not be proceeded with further until the bill in the House of Lords came down to this House, and then both measures would be before Hon. Members.

Mr. VANCE, Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD, Mr. W. CRAWFORD, Mr. COWAN, and other Members supported the bill.

Lord J. RUSSELL said he was happy to perceive that the bill was so favourably received, and he had no objection to adopt the suggestion of the Attorney-General, by not proceeding further with the bill after its present stage until the other bill was before the House.

The bill was then read a second time.

THE LUNATIC POOR (IRELAND) BILL.

A considerable debate arose on the motion for going into committee on this bill. Ultimately the motion for referring the bill to a select committee was agreed to.

The House went into committee on the Oaths Act Amendment Bill; and after some further business, adjourned.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Debtor and Creditor Bill was read a third time, and passed.

In reply to the Earl of Clarendon,

The SECRETARY for FOREIGN AFFAIRS stated that a commission had been appointed to draw the boundaries between Bosnia and Montenegro, but that their efforts had been altogether unsuccessful, owing to the pertinacity of Prince Danilo. Her Majesty's Ministers were, however, still endeavouring to discover means of settling the difficulty, without infringing either the just claims of the Montenegrins or the integrity of the Turkish empire.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IONIA.

In reply to Mr. Labouchere, The SECRETARY for the COLONIES said that both the Government and Mr. Gladstone were of opinion that laying the report of the latter gentleman on the state of the Ionian Islands on the table at present might be productive of great injury. He also stated that the Government had learnt by telegraph that Sir Henry Storks had prorogued the Legislature for six months, but they had received no official information as to his reasons for taking that step.

[THE REFORM BILL]

In answer to Mr. Hutt, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was probable that, in committee upon the Reform Bill, many members would propose resolutions which would be favourably received by the House, and he hoped the same privilege would be accorded to her Majesty's Government. The Right Hon. Gentleman also said, in reply to Mr. Ridley, that the rights of all existing freeholders would be respected, but the freeholders in boroughs would have the option of voting either in the borough or county.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Mr. GREGORY moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the re-organisation of the British Museum. He said the public had decided that re-organisation was imperatively required, but at present the Government had not sufficient information upon which to act in the matter, and he contended that the inquiry could be much better conducted by a select committee than by the trustees of the British Museum.

After some discussion, in which Lord ELCHO, Mr. STANLEY, Mr. DISRAELI, Mr. M. MILNES, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, and others took part,

Mr. GREGORY withdrew the motion, with the view of altering its terms as to the precise nature of the inquiry.

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE GUARDS.

Sir JOHN TRELAUNY moved for a select committee to inquire into the nature and extent of certain privileges enjoyed by her Majesty's Household Infantry, and mentioned in the report of a commission appointed on the 12th day of April, 1858, as "the privileges of the Guards;" also, to inquire whether such privileges had a tendency to produce dissatisfaction or diminish the efficiency of the army.

The SECRETARY for WAR said that during the last eighteen years no less than four royal commissions and one committee had been appointed to inquire into the privileges of the Guards, and the House was already in possession of every information which it could require with regard to them. Under those circumstances, he felt it his duty to oppose the motion.

Some discussion followed, after which the motion was negatived by a majority of 135 against 31.

NEW BILLS.

Mr. BRADY obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws which regulate the qualification and registration of Parliamentary voters in Ireland.

Mr. HADFIELD obtained leave to bring in bills to enable sergeants, barristers-at-law, attorneys, and solicitors to practise in the High Court of Admiralty; and to amend the law relating to the conveyance of land for charitable uses.

THE STATE OF THE NAVY.

Sir C. NAPIER moved for a copy of letters from Sir Baldwin Walker, on the state of the navy, to the Admiralty or the First Lord of the Admiralty, from March, 1858, to the end of the year.

The First Lord of the ADMIRALTY objected to the motion, on the ground that the letters were confidential communications, but observed that he had already made the House acquainted with those portions of them in which it was likely to feel an interest.

Sir C. NAPIER said he did not want extracts, but the whole letters, as he was desirous to see who was to blame for the present very unsatisfactory state of the navy.

Some further conversation followed, after which the motion was negatived by a majority of 177 against 26.

PLAIN SPEAKING.—Some admirers of Mr. Thomas Carlyle conceived the idea of putting him in nomination as a candidate for the post of Rector of the Marischal College, Aberdeen. Through Mr. John Forbes they applied for permission, and obtained a negative in the following characteristic form:—"I am much obliged to you and your young friends in Marischal College; but there are two reasons why, as appears to me, you ought not to proceed with your nomination. The first is that you have no good likelihood, so far as I can guess, of carrying your election. This is a very important preliminary reason. The second is, that being extremely busy in these months, and otherwise averse to travel, and, in truth, an enemy rather than a friend to public haranguing as at present practised, I do not think it likely I could get to Aberdeen on such an errand, even if you were unexpectedly successful. Pray desist, therefore. To me the honour is without importance at this stage of my life, and, in fact, has no value at all, except as testifying your regard to me, of which I now otherwise hold myself assured. And to you have not I already 'spoken'—to such of you as care to listen—and, with a great deal of deliberation, given you the truest advice I had? Accept many thanks from me, and believe, all of you, voters for and voters against, that nobody, elected or eligible, can wish you more truly than I do continued increase of intelligence, and of all the nobleness that should go along with it. And so, with sincere regards and thanks, I remain, yours faithfully, T. CARLYLE."

RAMSGATE SANDS.—NO. 3.

We have been behaving to our beloved readers after the method adopted by that superlative woman, Mrs. Sprucer, for perpetuating the affection of her husband. We will explain to our dear friends Mrs. S.'s mode of treatment. She so varies her dinners that a similar dish never appears on table twice in the same week. Mr. Sprucer is a high-pressure smoker, and is said to have no stomach. It has cost Mrs. S. enormous study and annoyance, but her consummate tact has gained for her the love of an unusually fickle man, for S. was of the hop-twig sort. Now, if we had consecutively presented to our readers our series of the four engravings from Mr. Frith's "Life at the Sea-side," we feel certain a surfeit would have ensued. We have, therefore, allowed a fortnight to elapse, so that our subscribers' eyes might recover their appetite for the beautiful, and now we submit to them our third engraving of Ramsgate Sands. The apprentices of Gloucester rose, to a shop-boy, because their masters fed them every day upon Severn salmon. A gentleman in Jamaica has been known to offer a cartload of pine-apples for one English summer cabbage. The backwoods-men of America would thankfully exchange a quarter of venison for a muttonchop. It is a funny world.

One proof of the excellence of Mr. Frith's picture is its truthfulness. The sands of Ramsgate will be the same next year as the artist has represented ten years back. Last season we had the pleasure of meeting on that fashionable shore our highly-respected friends the sable minstrels. We cannot swear to the portraits, but they greatly resembled those in our woodcut—at least the hair and the shirt-collars are curiously similar. We had a severe encounter, too, with a nautical man who wanted us to buy a parrot, for we had our "her" with us, and she dearly loves a parrot, no matter what price is asked for it. Mr. Frith's bird-seller is astoundingly like the fellow who attempted the infamous robbery referred to. We feel our anger rise as we gaze at the mean-spirited rogue's face. We will explain our adventure directly.

There was once on a time a talented Manchester mechanic who endeavoured to turn to profit the mania exhibited by white mice for turning their cages. He made them reel off cotton. Now if the authorities of Ramsgate had their wits about them, they would take advantage of the persevering industry wasted by the lovely children who yearly dig up the sand. Why not allow these diminutive workmen to construct a handsome dyke? The coral-reefs are built up by smaller creatures than these London babes. The town wants a handsome sea-side promenade. The present behaviour of these spade children is a torment. We have had sand splashed into our faces. Our pockets have been filled with the sharp grit, so that our handkerchief—on application—has scrubbed the nose like sand-paper. We have viewed the progress of erecting castles, absorbed in the construction of the outer ditch, and wrapt up in the piling of the main building, until a sudden rush of the tide has soaked our legs as high as the knees, and ruined thirty shillings' worth of patent boots.

The professional gentlemen who exhibit at Ramsgate are honest to one another and business-like. They avoid all rivalry in competition by a sensible division of time. When the proprietor of "Punch" has concluded his entertainment, the Italian minstrel will solo on the hurdy-gurdy; and his collection made, off start the husky-dusky serenaders. This nigger music is ever enchanting, and commands a full audience. There is something very sweet in the scratchy tenor moaning over Dinah, and the full burst of the jingling chorus lends earnestness and effect to the whole. The few bars of music which precede the song seem to be written by a master who never wrote anything more, for they are very similar, and the choruses do not differ greatly in melody, whilst the airs of the solo songs bear a powerful resemblance. Yet the multitude will relish eight melodies to each performance, and listen untired to ten performances every morning. The negro dialect is usually dispensed with during the operative portion of the entertainment, but it is carefully adhered to when the riddles and conversation commence. The leader—keeping up the character—cries out, "We shall now inform dat dutiful and infecting salad, 'Lucy Neale.'" To give local colouring to the entertainment, the tambourine asks the bones if he is "still inflated with that lubly yellar gal." The reply is, "O yas, nigger; I worship dat gal!" "What ship was dat you said, nigger?" inquires tambourine. "I infer to the gal Dinah," retorts the bones; and instantly the chorus starts off with a song about a young lady of that name.

The man with the parrot always warrants the bird to speak like a Christian, and he wouldn't take less than three pounds for it, if you were to put the money down then and there. He says he couldn't. He is also very willing to enter into a full account of his past life, and how he came by the bird. You are told he is a second mate, and has to join his ship in two days. He pretends he wouldn't sell the bird for ten pounds if he wasn't short of money. He handles the bird as boldly as if it were a dead chicken, and has the impudence to request you to follow his example, although the creature has the beak of an eagle. He appeals to "her," and where was the woman yet who couldn't love a parrot? He follows you home, and that evening, 'tween lights, he calls, and sends word in by the servant that he has lowered his price five shillings. With an impudence which, properly applied, would lead to a fortune, he forces his way into the room, carrying a huge bundle at his back. Whether you like it or not, he opens the bundle to show the lady a few silk dresses and French goods, which he can warrant to be genuine, he remarks, with a wink, because he smuggled them to England with him in his own ship. He vows he will sell at any price, for he must get rid of them somehow, having to join his ship. Then he holds up a limp lack-lustre silk, and asks a price which would be considered an insult at Waterloo House. If you refuse the dress, he has slippers; if you decline them, he has eau-de-Cologne; if you dislike scent, he has laces, aprons, artificial flowers, gold-fish, Genoa velvet, canaries, or worked collars. He manages to sell ten shillings' worth of trash, and evidently allows the ship he ought to have joined, to sail without him, for he never leaves Ramsgate until the season is over.



RAMSGATE SANDS, NO. 3.—(BY W. F. FRITH, R.A.—A GROUP FROM THE LARGE ENGRAVING ISSUED BY THE ART UNION OF LONDON.)



LANDING OF THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES AT QUEENSTOWN.—(FROM A SKETCH BY R. L. STOPFORD.)



INTERVIEW OF THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES WITH THE MAYOR OF CORK.—(FROM A SKETCH BY R. L. STOPFORD.)

THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES.

Our readers have before them portraits of some of these noble Italian gentlemen, who, after many years of imprisonment, with torture, have at length the happiness to tread free ground, and to breathe an air in which no tyrant can exist. Last week we told their escape, and indicated who they were, for the most part, and why they had suffered. Since then, their own account of their voyage has appeared, addressed to the Mayor of Cork. Say they, in language which must affect every honest heart—

"We have all come out from the Neapolitan prisons and galleys. A decree of grace sends us to perpetual banishment from our own country, and with a ministerial order was inflicted to us a punishment which is not in our laws: that is the transportation in America.

"Immediately embarked in the steamer Stromboli, without a moment of time to see our families and provide to our interests, we started in a great hurry on the 17th day of January, towed by the steam frigate Ettore Pieramosca to Cadix.

"In the Bay of Cadiz we demanded to be put ashore, but it has been answered that the Spanish Government would not receive us. Then we asked to pay on board any English or French vessel, and it was replied that such a thing was not allowed, but we were to be positively transported to New York. For twenty-five days we have been in the Bay of Cadiz, on board the Stromboli, without seeing or to be seen by anybody.

"Frankly we said to the Stromboli and Ettore Pieramosca's commanders, and to the Neapolitan consul at Cadiz, that we would take before the competent courts any ship's master that should transport us to New York against our will. We wrote by the post to the governor of Cadiz, and by chance reading in the Spanish newspaper, 'La Palma,' of the 1st of February, that the member of Parliament, Mr. Olozaga, spoke about us, so we wrote also to him and sent a copy of our letter to the governor, and another to the Piedmontese consul. That is all we could do to let know our will, being prisoners and strictly kept.

"Meanwhile it was negotiated with several Spanish and Dutch masters to charter their ships for conveying us to America. At last all was settled with Mr. Samuel Prentiss, master of the American clipper David Stewart, of Baltimore. This captain, without asking our will, and neither seeing us, signed the charter-party of transportation for the sum of 8,500 dollars.

"Then we wrote a declaration, signed by all of us, in which we said that when we shall be on board an American ship, and free men, we will invoke the protection of United States laws, and prayed the captain to steer for the nearest port of England, and if he persisted to go to New York, respecting always the laws of the ship during the voyage, we would accuse him before the courts for the violation of our liberty, and call him responsible of all our losses and interests. This declaration being done we kept it, and sent a copy to the American consul and to 'Palma's' director, for being published by the press.

"The 19th day of February, from the Stromboli we were conveyed on board the American clipper, that immediately started, towed for 200 miles by the Ettore Pieramosca. The 20th, at two o'clock p.m., the frigate leaves us, and a Neapolitan officer comes on board, bringing a sum of 200 dollars to Captain Prentiss; afterwards took our letters for Naples and went away.

"Left alone in the middle of the ocean, and being free on board the American ship, with urbanity we presented the declaration that we had ready, and you will allow us, sir, to present you a copy of it.

"The captain at first says that he gave his word to take us to America, and that he would not act against his own interests. We ask him to show us the contract and he refuses, but in the morning of the 21st day of February the captain thought better, and perhaps understood the importance of our written protest, called the crew aft, and showed them our writing, saying that we declared not to go to New York, and he was obliged to steer for Cork, whereupon, respecting the laws of the ship not only, but also those of the country, respecting the captain, and being respected by the officers and crew, we reached Ireland.

"If you ask us, sir, why we should not go to America, such a fine, free, and civilised country, we shall answer for several reasons. Look at our figures. Great many of us are old and of decayed health; buried for ten years in galleys, being thirty-five days at sea, how could we support a long navigation on a sailing ship? Whoever is banished from a dear country for whom he has fought and suffered, wishes to be far from it as little as possible. Perhaps, after our example, our companions that we have left shall not be conveyed so far. At last now we are free, and for the first time we use our liberty with not doing what the violence imposes us to do.

"In this way, and for this reason, we were here asking hospitality of the generous people of Great Britain. This noble people knows our misfortunes, and their Government two years ago made every effort in our favour, advising our liberty, but seeing that its reasonable and authorised counsel was not heard it broke the diplomatic relations with the Neapolitan Government. We hope, however, to be received by the British people, that respecting themselves will also respect those men that have fought and suffered for the civilisation of their country.

"This flourishing city of Cork, and you, sir, that we do not know but for your rank, we honour as an estimable person and first citizen, will benignly receive the Italian refugees that ask a shelter for liberty and peace from the people of Great Britain."

Then follow the names of the exiles, among whom we find men of all classes—noblemen, statesmen, lawyers, soldiers, physicians, theologians, priests, "estate gentleman," farmers, bakers, carpenters, and innkeepers. The mayor tells us that on landing, some of them went on their knees and kissed the earth; and "we observed with sorrow the efforts made by many of these gentlemen to conceal their decayed apparel beneath their cloaks."

To all appearance, the opportunity afforded to the British public of protesting against the besotted tyranny of King Ferdinand, will not be lost. The Bath Hotel, in Arlington Street, where the exiles are lodged, is visited day by day by crowds of influential men, including some of the first men of the country. Mr. Gladstone, among others, has had a long interview with them. The Earl of Shaftesbury has established a committee to collect funds on their behalf; and in this committee list we find such names as the Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl of Carlisle, Earl of Harrowby, Earl Granville, Viscount Palmerston, Lord John Russell, the Bishop of London, Lord Overstone, the Master of the Rolls, the Attorney-General for Ireland, Lord Clarendon, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Cranworth, Mr. Gladstone, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, the Right Hon. Sir D. Dundas, the Right Hon. Sir B. Hall, the Right Hon. W. Cowper, Mr. Labouchere, the Dean of St. Paul's, Sir J. Ramsden, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Sir B. Brodie, Sir George Grey, the Dean of Westminster, and a long list of members of Parliament and other gentlemen. The Hon. A. Kinnaird, 1, Pall Mall East, acts as treasurer; and Mr. Panizzi, of the British Museum, as hon. secretary. Temporary offices have been taken at No. 118, Pall Mall.

A hundred pounds have already been subscribed in Cork; the Lord Mayor has formed a committee to receive subscriptions; the Marylebone Representative Council have granted the use of their hall for a public meeting; and a demonstration at Drury Lane Theatre is also talked of.

THE DEATH OF SIR ANTHONY OLIPHANT, formerly Chief Justice of the Island of Ceylon, is announced.

LOCHARD HOUSE, Dunbar, one of the seats of Sir John Warrender, was destroyed by fire on Friday week. The loss is estimated at between £20,000 and £30,000.

THE FIRST OUTWARD AUSTRALIAN MAIL under the new postal contract between the Home Government and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Packet Company, left Southampton on Monday.

OFFICERS OF REGIMENTS AND DEPOTS AT CHATHAM are to go through the judging distance drills and practices once every year, either with their companies, or in squads by themselves, as may be found most convenient.

THE CHURCH OF ST. GERTRUDE, at Nivelles, one of the most ancient and remarkable of the religious edifices in Belgium, has been greatly injured by fire.

A SURVEYING EXPEDITION OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS is to proceed to Montenegro, for the purpose of making an accurate survey of the boundary line to Constantinople. Another expedition of the Royal Engineers is to survey the Turkish and Persian boundary line. This expedition is likely to be absent from England three years.

A DOUBTFUL STORY.—There is an anecdote circulating anent Lord Brougham, that he was met leaving the House, by a brother peer, who had two very beautiful girls on his arms. "Sorry to see you leaving," was the remark, "as these young ladies came expressly to hear you speak." Lord Brougham, as a proud chevalier of the old school, declared that they should not be disappointed—returned to the House, and, asking some question on foreign politics, was smiled off by Lord Melbourne, who was unprepared; whereupon was delivered one of his Lordship's most memorable philippics, that shook the very foundation of the Ministry; and all this, says the narrator of the anecdote, to please a pair of pretty women, who took the compliment the same as they would a box at the Opera or a whitebait dinner.

SIR E. LANDSEER'S "RETURN FROM HAWKING."

AND
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AND
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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1859.

CRUELTY AT SEA.

Our readers must have remarked how many cases of brutal treatment of sailors have turned up lately in our criminal courts. Probably, there is no offence so shocking to the feelings of the British people, and certainly there is none which ought to be punished so severely; because it is committed with such enormous chances of impunity. The sailor, hundreds of miles away in the loneliness of the high sea, is peculiarly exposed to a tyrant; and, when the ship does come home, how difficult is it for him to collect his witnesses, how difficult to keep them together—belonging, as they do, to the most wandering of all classes of mankind! We must make up for the difficulty of getting justice done, by making justice inexorably severe in all such cases.

The mercantile marine has lagged terribly behind the Royal Navy in accommodating itself to the milder tone of modern manners. Now-a-days, in her Majesty's ships, cruelty is becoming obsolete. An officer who should strike a seaman would ruin his own character as a gentleman—but this is a kind of character which your common skipper has not always got to lose. The temptation of power, in his case, has often got a rude, uncultivated nature to work upon; the beast-instinct is untamed by civilisation, and rages with all its native force. We see this, especially, in the case of American ships—for, even in their men-of-war, harshness is commoner than in our vessels. Let it teach us to put ourselves to rights, however; for, if the Yankees have lately produced a Pennington, we have not been behind-hand with our Buchanan and our Mitchell.

It will be as well to refresh the memories of readers of the newspapers about these names.

"Thomas S. Pennington," mate of the *Samaritan*, was charged last week, at Liverpool, with "violently beating a coloured sailor, and causing him to fall from the skysail rigging, a distance of 150 feet." We are not told the degree of his colour, but he was probably (poor fellow) very dark indeed. The details are heart-rending. The man was busy greasing the loftiest spars of the vessel, and was simply thrashed over the hands till he gave way and fell on the deck. If he has died of this (and the case was remanded to await the result), we trust that the jury will not be squeamish about their verdict. This is no time for weakness. Examples must be made. For, if this kind of brutality is tolerated, it will ripen into something worse. It is not an American question; because there is a constant flow of seamen through the marine services of both nations, and the morale of one affects that of the other. Good men of each nation must be glad to see their ruffians chastised even at the hands of rivals.

Turn, now, to the case of "John Buchanan" and "Archibald Mitchell," of the Pacific Screw Steam-Ship Company *Bogota*, both of whom have been committed for manslaughter at Liverpool. We shall not go through the farce of pretending to wait for their final condemnation before commenting on the case. These two engineers, on the 25th of January (it was Burns's Centenary, and they were both Scotchmen, we are sorry to say), lowered a man named Laundon, a fireman, down into the stoke-hole. Most of us can guess what the effect of a stoke-hole in the tropics must have been on a man who complained of his health. The man died. In vain the doctor ordered him "to be rolled about;" nothing was left for the victim of such brutes but to be rolled overboard.

The excuse here, of course, is that he "would not work," but his death shows that he was not in a fit state to work. They had their remedy at law if he had shipped in an unfit state for his duty, but to burn him to death was what they had no more right to do than to hang him. This crime may safely be left, we hope, to jury and judge. But we confess that we should like to know who the captain of the *Bogota* was, and what he says to the affair, and to his own responsibility in it? Should not also Schmitz, the surgeon, be further overhauled in the matter? It came out in evidence, that this functionary declared the deceased's health good enough for the stoke-hole, within an hour or so of the time when the stoke-hole killed him. Was this only an ignorance disgraceful to him as a surgeon, or was it, also, a hard-heartedness shameful to him as a man? We hardly like to pronounce. But we are glad that no surgeon, bearing a British name, has acted as Schmitz has; and we politely direct the attention of the "Pacific Screw Steamship Company" to his merits.

The Board of Trade acted with great propriety in instructing counsel to undertake the prosecution, and we trust that in every such case, similar attention will be shown. This kind of thing is becoming a national disgrace, and must be checked by any and every means—chiefly, of course, by an unsparing exercise of the terrors of the law. We, also, of the British press, can do something to expose and chastise such pitiless and bestial ferocity—nor do we intend to shrink from this portion of our public duty.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY left Buckingham Palace on Tuesday morning for Osborne. According to present arrangements, the Court will remain absent from town a fortnight.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS FREDERICK-WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA are expected to arrive in this country, with their infant son, early in May.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is said to have entered into the amusements of the Carnival with great vivacity. "He has been every day at his balcony opposite the Palazzo Fiano, or perambulating the Corso in his carriage, taking an active part in the mimic warfare of the confetti."

PRINCE ALFRED was present at a ball recently given in his honour by the British residents in Alexandria.

THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER has been severely indisposed.

THE GENDARMES arrested at Cagliari, a few days ago, a notorious bandit, named VERA DE AZIUS, who is accused of having committed more than seventy murders.

THE PRINCESS ALICE will be confirmed at Windsor during the Easter recess.

MR. HENLEY has arrived at Trinity Bay, with his electrical instrument, in order to experimentise upon the Atlantic cable.

FIVE FRIGATES ARE TO BE SHEATHED IN IRON so as to make them shot-proof. The contract for one is just concluded.

THE LATE MR. COMMISSIONER PHILLIPS left personal property to the value of £30,000. It is left to his wife absolutely, with the exception of a gold snuff-box, a goblet, and a travelling-case formerly belonging to the Emperor Napoleon, which he leaves to his son, W. H. Phillips, of the East India Company.

CAPTAIN VIVIAN recently said in the House of Commons—"A requisition was made for some oats for the Cape lately; one clerk thought they ought to go in sacks, another in tubs, another in barrels; and ultimately the question was referred to Sir Benjamin Hawes, who decided in favour of sacks. Meantime the requisition itself was forgotten, and the oats did not reach the Cape until after a delay of six months."

SOME COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL was dropped into the letter-box at the Devonport Post-office a few nights ago, and nearly caused the destruction of the establishment. As it was, thirty or forty letters were totally destroyed, and about fifty partially burnt.

LOD SHAFTESBURY has proposed to set on foot a Cabman's Club, consisting of a provident society, reading-room, meeting-room, &c.

THE VARIOUS CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS OF LIVERPOOL have just received donations to the amount of £1,700 from the Mayor, Mr. William Preston.

OUT OF 9,995 ELMS which three years ago adorned the Champs Elysées, in Paris, 3,500 are dead, and 2,000 in a dying state. Upwards of 800 are stated to have perished by gas exhalations.

IN BRADFORD DISTRICT the stocks have again come into daily use.

THE ISLE OF PERIM is now in possession of a subaltern's guard of English soldiers. The English many years ago temporarily occupied Perim and then abandoned it. It would appear that from that time until the re-occupation, the island had never been visited, for some buildings left by the English were found in precisely the same state as when they were abandoned.

A CLERGYMAN in the county of Durham lately concluded morning service with the following words:—"Brethren, next Friday is my title-day, and those who bring the tithes on that day shall be rewarded with a good dinner; but those who do not may depend upon receiving a county court summons!"

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS has arrived at Marseilles, returning from his long travels in Russia and the East.

THE REV. EDWARD PARRY, for many years the private secretary and domestic chaplain of the late and the present Bishop of London, has just been rewarded with the living of Acton, Middlesex, the value of which is between £900 and £1,000 a year.

THE COMMISSION charged with the erection of a magnificent church in Madrid, in honour of the Immaculate Conception, has decided on inviting the architects of all Europe to send in designs.

SPRING WILL COMMENCE THIS YEAR at five minutes to four o'clock in the afternoon of the 20th.

LORD ROSSLYN has accepted the office of Under-Secretary for War, vacant by the resignation of Lord Hardinge. Lord Rosslyn is a major-general in the army, and has been twice Master of the Buckhounds.

THE WHOLE OF THE OFFICERS who were granted leave of absence from their regiments at Chatham have joined the depôts of their corps at that garrison, in accordance with orders. No more leave of absence will for the present be granted to the officers at Chatham, except under very special circumstances.

TWO HUNDRED OF THE GREENWICH PENSIONERS attended Drury Lane Theatre on Friday evening week, to hear the opera of "William and Susan," and to see the pantomime. They were admitted gratuitously; and Mr. Wheatley, the Greenwich omnibus proprietor, gave his omnibuses free of charge.

THE AFGHAN CHIEF, Sid Dyk Khan, who has been at Constantinople for two years as a refugee from Candahar, has left for Alexandria on board the *Silistria*, with a suite of twenty-four persons. He intends proceeding thence to England.

PRINTED FORMS have been delivered to the leading men and foremen of the royal gun factories in Woolwich Arsenal, prohibiting, on pain of instant dismissal, any information to be given relative to the department except to naval and military officers in her Majesty's service.

MR. COCKS, senior partner in the well-known firm of Messrs. Cocks and Biddulph, died at his house in Harley Street on Thursday morning.

WILLIAM HALL, a bailiff, took possession of a labourer's goods under a distress for rent. Whilst in possession, he indulged himself with some elderberry-wine he found in the house. For this freedom he was committed for trial, and, being convicted of the theft at the Worcestershire sessions, he was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

A CURIOUS DISCOVERY has just been made in the archives of the City of London—a new fact about Chaucer. In the reign of Edward III. a lease was granted to Geoffrey Chaucer of a room above one of the city gates—Aldgate—and of the premises adjoining. The poet was the lessee, in the east of London, of a room like that over Temple Bar, and of a house adjoining, like that of the Messrs. Child.

PROFESSOR NICHOL has published a letter contradicting the report that Mr. George Combe was the author of the "Vestiges of the Natural History of the Creation." Dr. Nichol uses terms which, at least by implication, contravene another very prevalent idea—that HE is the author.

A FATAL PEGHISTIC ENCOUNTER has taken place at Hollingworth, Yorkshire, between Andrew Hollingworth, a weaver, and Christopher Rookes, a mechanic. Hollingworth was the challenger, and, after they had fought for a few minutes, fell, with his spine mortally injured. He was conveyed to the Huddersfield Infirmary next day, and died there.

HER MAJESTY has sent a gold snuff-box and a medal to Captain Hudson, the commander of the United States frigate *Niagara*, for his exertions in assisting to lay down the Atlantic cable.

ANOTHER VOLUME FROM THE PEN OF HUGH MILLER is in the press. It is entitled "A Sketch-book of Popular Geology," being a series of lectures delivered before the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh. The work is edited by Mr. Miller's widow.

MR. PHIPPS, a farmer, was loading a six-barrel revolver pistol, when it fell on the floor, causing several of the barrels to discharge; one ball blew off his thumb and a finger, a second lodged in one of his thighs, while a third took off a part of his face.

THE REIGNING DUKE OF NASSAU, who is one of the best horsemen in Europe, was lately thrown from his horse while on his way to Limerick, whither he was going to see some ball-firing. He met with some very severe contusions, but his life is not in danger.

THE FIRST STONE OF A VILLA which Rossini intends building at Passy, was laid on Friday last. The maestro himself officiated, and placed under the stone an inscription and a medal which had been struck in honour of his "Stabat." Madame Rossini concluded the ceremony by planting a rose-tree.

THE COURT DE PARIS is about to accept a commission in the Prussian army, says the "Nord."

A WRITER IN THE "UNIVERS," having sharply criticised the new opera, "Herculeum," of M. Felicien David, averring, that, in order to attain "really celestial melodies," a composer must be a Christian, M. Charles David, brother to the gentleman attacked, has written a letter, declaring that the family is of Christian blood, and the composer was regularly baptised, and belongs to the Christian persuasion.

A LADY has offered to contribute the sum of £8,000 towards the endowment of a female sanitary professorship and women's hospital—for the education of lady practitioners—provided such an institution shall be established in London.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

From my heart, the London correspondents of country newspapers. They must certainly draw upon their imaginations for their reports. In the present foggy state of our political atmosphere, a single real fact is visible. We are in the land of shadows, and an onward step before him. The debate which is to settle the Government Bill is to be rejected or passed, whether the Ministry are to go out or retain their seats, whether Parliament is to be dissolved or not—will begin next Monday; but though the time is dimly conjured up as to the results, and the most serious consequences cannot divorce with anything like certainty what will happen. Now men who generally, in a political crisis, when an important question is coming on, can calculate the result within three or four; but here are entirely at fault now. Reasoning logically, the Ministry ought to be beaten by a hundred, and resign at once without a dissolution; for there is in the House at least a hundred more Liberal members than there are Conservatives. Every Liberal member ought gladly to vote against the bill; and, with a hundred majority against them, the Ministry ought logically to go out at once; but the present state of parties sets all logic at defiance. It is reported that Mr. Russell's vague speech, in which he seemed to intimate that the Government does not mean to insist upon the disfranchisement of the county voters residing in boroughs, was made without consultation with his colleagues; and that, at the cabinet meeting on Saturday last, he got a winking from his chief. This is the report; but how it originated, and what amount of truth there is in it, I have no means of knowing. Cabinet meetings are generally considered to be very close secrets; but the transactions do ooze out occasionally, we know. Government's scheme of Reform was certainly revealed to the "Times" the day before it was brought before the House; rumour points to the traitor, but it would be obviously unfair even to hint his name on the strength of a rumour.

On Tuesday evening last, wishing to see an honourable member of Parliament, I went to catch him in the lobby, and then, having transacted my little business, I by favour of Mr. Speaker got admission into the gallery. The subject under discussion was that vexed question the abolition of church-rates, and when I entered, a Mr. Darby Griffith was on his legs. From my position I could not see the orator, and therefore what he is like I cannot tell you, but I could hear him pretty well when the House would allow me. I say when the House would allow me, for the interruptions made by the laughter and certain singular noises were so frequent that the Honourable Gentleman's speech came to me only in snatches, which, being utterly disjointed from what came before and came after, had a very curious effect. When I entered, Mr. Griffith was discoursing upon some society for the liberation of religion from State control, which seemed to move his anger. Then there came shouts of laughter and discordant cries of "Oh, oh!" "Question, question!" "Divide, divide." And then, when the words of Mr. Griffith fell again upon my ears, he was talking about Quakers' affirmations, though what Quakers' affirmations had to do with church-rates, I could not make out. Anon there arose another burst of interruption, and Mr. Speaker got up and muttered something, but what it all meant I could not tell. The next time that I got a clear notion of what the Hon. Gentleman was talking about, I found that he had wandered to the English Poor-laws; and soon he appeared to be gravely attributing the frequent revolutions in France to the want of a similar institution; and, in the course of his argument, he uttered the following singular sentence:—"In England every man is secure from want—but, in France, no working man knows whether he may rot in a garret without legal help." Here there was a burst of laughter, as well there might be, for dying without legal help could only mean dying without the help of the executioner. But the mirth of the House rose to its climax, when, after a pause, to allow the noise to subside, Mr. Griffith was heard to say, apparently with the utmost simplicity, "I really don't know what there is to excite the Honourable Members' hilarity." The noise was so great after this that I heard no more of Mr. Griffith's speech, though he continued talking for another quarter of an hour. When Mr. Griffith sat down, another gentleman arose whom I did not know—but who I see by the papers was Mr. Sotheron Estcourt, the new Home Secretary. But I had an appointment—and as Mr. Estcourt's eloquence was not sufficiently attractive to induce me to break my engagement, I left, not specially struck with the gravity and decorum of the proceedings of our English Senate.

The arrival of the Neapolitan exiles on British ground has elicited an amount of generous sympathy which could scarcely have been expected, even by the most sanguine of our sympathetic countrymen. Every man moving in society must have upon his list certain houses where he knows that on each reception-night he will meet the exile, flourishing like a green bay-tree; he knows the seedy costumes, the tattered shawl, the pinchbeck-ringed, dirt-imbued fingers, the enormous quantities of these children of misfortune; he knows and pities them, but his knowledge stands him in good stead as to entertaining and preparation for small boats, and his pity is not unmixed with a contempt for certain small but totally un-English vices and short-comings which he cannot fail in observing. Truth to tell, those gentlemen who have chosen to humour us (I mean of late years) by accepting what we with excellent taste call an "asylum" in our country, have not been a very excellent specimen of their class. But the Neapolitan gentlemen who have just been released from the tyranny of King Ferdinand are of a very different stamp. They have "entered their good in sorrow," they have "suffered and been strong." The description of their landing in Ireland—of their falling down and kissing the ground of freedom—was an affecting fit of nature, which, to any one acquainted with the story, can readily be divested of any charge of affectation. Their story is history; they bear in their bodies the marks of the indignities and cruelties they have suffered, and their case is guaranteed by a committee of gentlemen, comprising some of the most respected names in England. It is understood that Baron Pario and one or two others are the guests of Mr. Panizza, the well-known librarian of the British Museum.

The Lords seem disposed to legislate on telegraphs, or, at all events, to take the telegrams into their consideration. Various returns have been called for, and the attention of the House has been repeatedly drawn to the desirability of making the inland and submarine telegraphs part and parcel of our postal system. It is thought that greater development of the telegraphic system would result from this change than is possible under its existing condition, while a low and uniform rate of charge would probably take the place of the present high rates. The machinery of the Post-office is unquestionably well adapted to the transaction, at comparatively a small cost, of the additional work which such a measure would throw upon it; and there can be no doubt that out of this arrangement would immediately spring a network of telegraphs infinitely more extended in its ramifications, and more extended in its operations, than is at present the case.

The letter addressed by Earl Grey to Lord Elcho, and published in the various journals, has excited, as might have been anticipated, great excitement and varied comment. By the chiefs of the Liberal party and their attachés, it is regarded with the utmost disgust, is looked upon as a long-delayed but now public avowal of "ratting," and as a deliberate annunciation of sentiments which for a long time have influenced Lord Grey, causing him to be an obstacle to liberal progress, and the most serious hindrance to the various attempts at reconciliation, which from time to time have been made, with a view of drawing together the disunited chiefs of the Liberal party. What effect it will have upon those to whom, by a side-wind, it was intended to be addressed, remains yet to be seen; but one thing is certain, that the Government adherents are by no means in so dolorous a state as they were a few days ago.

Lord Cowley returns from Vienna on Saturday night, and on Sunday has a long interview with Lord Malmesbury. In Downing Street

"The last accents fall from Cowley's tongue," but what they are the outer world has not the slightest conception. The noble recipient, "which his name is Harris," is marvellously reti-

cent, and we are left in the blackest darkness as to the success or failure of the special mission. Whether

"In Vienna's fatal walls,
A finger touched him, and he slept;"

or whether he proved himself wide-awake to the cajoleries of Austrian diplomatists, we have yet to learn. In good time, the public, who paid for the mission, and are somewhat interested in its success, may perhaps be informed as to its result.

The literary world is all astir. Within a few weeks we shall have the first number of the new periodical, to be conducted by Mr. Charles Dickens, and called "All the Year Round." Two new books come from the two accomplished sons of Mrs. Trollope. The elder, Mr. T. Adolphus Trollope, who resides in Florence with his mother, and who is thoroughly versed in Italian literature and manners, gives us "A Decade of Italian Women;" the younger and more celebrated, Anthony, who has already won for himself an excellent name, produces "The Bertrams." Mr. Anthony Trollope, who is in the service of the Post-office, and who combines extraordinary official zeal with great literary ability, is at present engaged in a departmental investigation in the West Indian Islands, and it was during his voyage thither that his new novel was written. Two monthly periodicals will next month hold out extra attractions—one, FRANK, commencing a new story called "Sword and Gown," by the author of "Guy Livingstone;" the other, the DUBLIN UNIVERSITY, containing the first of a series of articles by Mr. G. A. Sala, to be entitled "The Streets of the World," No. 1, being "The King's Road, Brighton." Messrs. Chapman and Hall also announce the publication of a new book by Mr. Sala, called "Gaslight and Daylight, with some London Scenes they Shine upon," which is understood to be a collection of his best descriptive essays contributed to "Household Words." Two weekly newspapers, the "Statesman" and the "Constitutional Press," names which will be unknown to a vast majority of the reading public, are announced as defunct. Of the former, the editor and proprietor was a Mr. Thomas Ballantyne, a Manchester journalist, and a hanger-on and imitator of Mr. Carlyle's. The latter was a rabid Tory organ, which endeavoured to extend its meagre circulation by a virulent personality and an insolence of language, fortunately but seldom met with now-a-days; this noble print, with a circulation of perhaps three hundred, was one of those journals which were favoured by the official advertisements of the present Government.

We are beginning to get rid of the taunts long levelled against us as a non-musical nation, and even among the Italians our native singers are gaining renown. The latest example is a Miss Whitty (daughter of the editor of one of the principal Liverpool newspapers, and sister to the well-known Mr. E. M. Whitty, author of "Friends of Bohemia"), who has created a perfect furor at Sienna. This time last year I had the pleasure of hearing Miss Whitty sing at the Malta Opera, and can bear witness to the promise she then exhibited.

In art matters one hears of the memorial addressed to the Lords of the Treasury by the Water-Colour Society, praying to be allowed to participate in the proposed grant of government land at Burlington House to the Royal Academy, and offering to build a suitable gallery at their own expense. This prayer is reasonable enough, and will, one would think, be granted, unless the proverbial jealousy and jockeying of the Academicians prevent it. "With one loud voice, the forty" always oppose the cause of progress. The "Architectural Union Company," a curiously-sounding mixture of art and commerce, have opened their new galleries with great success. These galleries are situate in Conduit Street and Maddox Street, joined by a long corridor, and are light, airy, and spacious. There was a very good exhibition on Tuesday, the night of the private view, several of the best-known architects sending specimens.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

On Saturday last, being the occasion of Miss Amy Sedgwick's benefit, was produced at the Haymarket, a new comedy by Mr. Palgrave Simpson, called "The World and the Stage," which is spoken of in the highest terms by all who saw it. I was not present, and cannot therefore report upon it until after Easter Monday, when it will be reproduced. On Monday Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews returned to the Haymarket, and re-appeared in two pieces, both translated from the French, and both of the very flimsiest material. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Mathews, unquestionably in his line the most perfect artist on the stage, should descend from the position he has always occupied, merely for the sake of acting as a foil to his wife—a lady who, with all deference be it spoken, will never attain anything but second-rate rank. Mr. Mathews is "lowering to her level" very rapidly, by playing extremely bad parts in extremely bad pieces of which she is the heroine. For his own sake, and for that of the public, the sooner he ceases this practice the better.

At Munich, a few days back, the Chamber in a secret sitting voted a credit to the government of 13,000,000 florins for military purposes.

THE TOTAL COST of the small-arms factory, at Enfield, from October, 1854, to March 31, 1858, appears to have been upwards of £300,000. The cost of 26,488 finished rifles figures for £74,934. This is a saving of £29,385 on the cost of the same number of rifles at the trade price of 63s. 8d.

RICHMOND BRIDGE will be toll-free from the 25th instant.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has recently given orders to the ship-builders in different French ports to the amount of ten millions of francs.

THE MARRIAGE OF Mlle. Evallard, daughter of the French Consul who was murdered at Djeddah, with M. Emerat, was celebrated at the church of St. Clothilde, Paris, on Saturday.

THE DUKE OF SERRAPALCO and the MARQUIS DE CERDA, friends of the Grand Duke Constantine, were not invited to the ball given to his Highness at Palermo by the Governor of Sicily, because they had been members of the chamber of 1848. The Grand Duke accordingly gave a dinner, to which he invited the Duke and the Marquis and other nobles, but no government officials.

WHISPERING IN ST. PAUL'S.—At last week's ordinary meeting of the Royal Institute of Architects, Mr. Parris, who renovated the painting in the dome of St. Paul's, said he had remarked, from his experience of that cathedral, that he could be heard distinctly at the distance of 220 feet, when he was immediately under the eye of the dome. Any person standing on a particular part of the pavement below, at a right angle, or nearly at a right angle, from where his voice would strike the roof, could hear even a whisper with the greatest distinctness; in fact, he had often held conversations in that way. He believed Mr. Penrose had likewise tried the experiment. As he moved to a different part of the dome, the person below would have to move to a different position, but in the same angle; when this became too great, the voice was lost. He had often tried the experiment, and found that the vibrations in a dome were always repeated thirty-two times, exactly corresponding with the points of the compass. It was the same at the Colosseum (London), where he had tried it with the flute, voice, and every means. He had tried experiments in the same way in St. Paul's, upon the level of the organ, and above and beneath it; and he found invariably that the sound was always best heard at the point opposite to where the voice had struck.

ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE.—In a lecture recently delivered at Chelsea, by Mr. Gilks, the following curious statistics were communicated concerning the illustrated press. Of ten illustrated papers published in London every week, viz., the "Illustrated London News," "Illustrated Times," "Punch," "London Journal," "Reynolds's Miscellany," "Cassell's Paper," "Leisure Hour," "Sunday at Home," "Town Talk," and "Mechanics" Magazine, the aggregate circulation is 1,711,000 copies per week, and the weekly cost of engravings is £575, making a total annual circulation of 90,638,000 copies, and spending £20,000 per annum on engravings.

THE "UNIVERS" CONVICTED.—Some months ago the "Univers" published the most circumstantial description of an atrocious crime committed by some Jews of Polchany, in Wallachia. They had seized on a Christian lad, and had subjected him to the most horrible martyrdom before putting him to death. The statement of the "Univers" was too important to be passed over in silence by the Wallachian authorities, who consequently appointed a commission to investigate the matter. This commission, which comprised delegates from the French, English, Austrian, Prussian, and Russian consulates at Bucharest, and a Wallachian deputy, has concluded its labours, and published a report which proves the assertions of the "Univers" to be false from beginning to end.

NEW BOOKS.

Robert Burns: a Centenary Song, and other Lyrics. By GERALD MASSEY. London: Kent and Co.

"Do you know," said Wordsworth, "why I printed the 'White Doe' in quarto? To show my opinion of it." We do not know if Mr. Massey (or his publisher) has issued this "Burns Ode" in such a preposterous sewn quarto form for a similar reason; but the preface has a tone of unlovely self-esteem which we are sorry to notice. The poem itself we think inferior to Miss Craig's as a whole, though it contains many finer and stronger passages. It has all Mr. Massey's usual mannerisms, and is remarkable, like the other lyrics in this pamphlet, and his poetry in general, for carrying a weight of fire and fancy utterly disproportionate to the burthen of thought. We could better forgive the contrary fault. "Poor Old Gran" is the best poem in the collection, and we gladly transfer a few verses to our columns:—

POOR OLD GRAN.

"The grip of Poverty is grim;
Poor Old Gran!
Lustres of lip and eye soon dim;
Poor Old Gran!
But thro' the frailty of her face
There gleams a light of tender grace,
Or else I see thro' a tearful haze
Poor Old Gran!"

"You came in all our sorrowings,
Poor Old Gran!
How your weakness hurried on wings,
Poor Old Gran!
You stood at Bridal, Birth, and Bier:
Our darlings dead and gone seem near
When you are near, and make more dear
Our poor Old Gran!"

"So come to our Cottage up the lane,
Poor Old Gran!
Follow our fortune's harvest wain,
Poor Old Gran!
We'll shelter you from wind and rain,
Hunger you shall not know again,
Plenty shall smile away your pain,
Poor Old Gran!"

"And little laughing Stars shall rise
On Poor Old Gran!
In the clear heaven of Childhood's eyes,
For Poor Old Gran!
Wee fingers, stroking her gray hair,
Shall almost melt the hoariest there,
Wee lips shall kiss away the care
From Poor Old Gran!"

"So come and sit beside our hearth,
Poor Old Gran!
Come from the darkness and the dearth,
Poor Old Gran!
And you shall be our fireside guest,
And weary heart and head shall rest;
And may your last days be your best,
Our Poor Old Gran!"

This is in Mr. Massey's best style, and for such poetry he will always find readers and get hearty thanks.

General Debility and Defective Nutrition: Their Causes, Consequences, and Treatment. By ALFRED SMEE, F.R.S., &c. London: John Churchill.

WE have here a hundred pages, the substance of an oration delivered on the 9th of February before the Hunterian Society, crowded with facts, shrewd observation, and wise and kindly suggestion, enlivened by anecdotes of the author's extensive practice as a medical man; of which last, here is one about Smoking:—

"One private patient whom I told that he was smoking too much, and was in a state of debility therefrom, simply in derision replied, 'What do you charge for that bit of advice?' And when I replied, 'One pound one,' he put the fee upon the table and walked out, neither saying one word more to me nor I to him. Another rich merchant whom I used to joke about his excessive smoking, and used to recommend him to lessen the amount, told me the advice was very good, and he had so far acted upon it, that he had lately imported a case of cigars for his own private use, which cost, without duty, 250 guineas, and he had no doubt that he should be no great time in consuming them."

It is worth mentioning that Mr. Smeeth thinks good raisin wine worth a trial as a stimulant by those who cannot afford good foreign wines. We may remark, in conclusion, that this volume is of such a character that every one might read it with advantage. It exhibits, moreover, so much thoughtful good nature, as well as science, that if we were to suffer from "general debility and defective nutrition," we should visit the author's consulting-room as well as read his book.

English Country Life. By THOMAS MILLER. With Illustrations. London: Routledge and Co.

MR. MILLER'S handsome prose-lyric of the country does not invite criticism. Nor does the title, quoted above, leave us anything to say by way of description, unless we add, in our own names, the words of his preface:—"Although the author has written some half-score or more of volumes on the country, yet on none has he bestowed so much care and labour as on the present work; which, were it only for its beautiful illustrations, must stand at the head of all his country books." The subject is, perhaps, overdone of late; but Mr. Miller has the genuine rural enthusiasm, and meanders pleasantly through the four seasons, along five hundred pictured pages.

AN ITALIAN SAVANT declares that after six years' experiment, he has succeeded in obtaining photographic pictures of the moon on which figures of naked animals are depicted, one species of which bore a great resemblance to human beings.

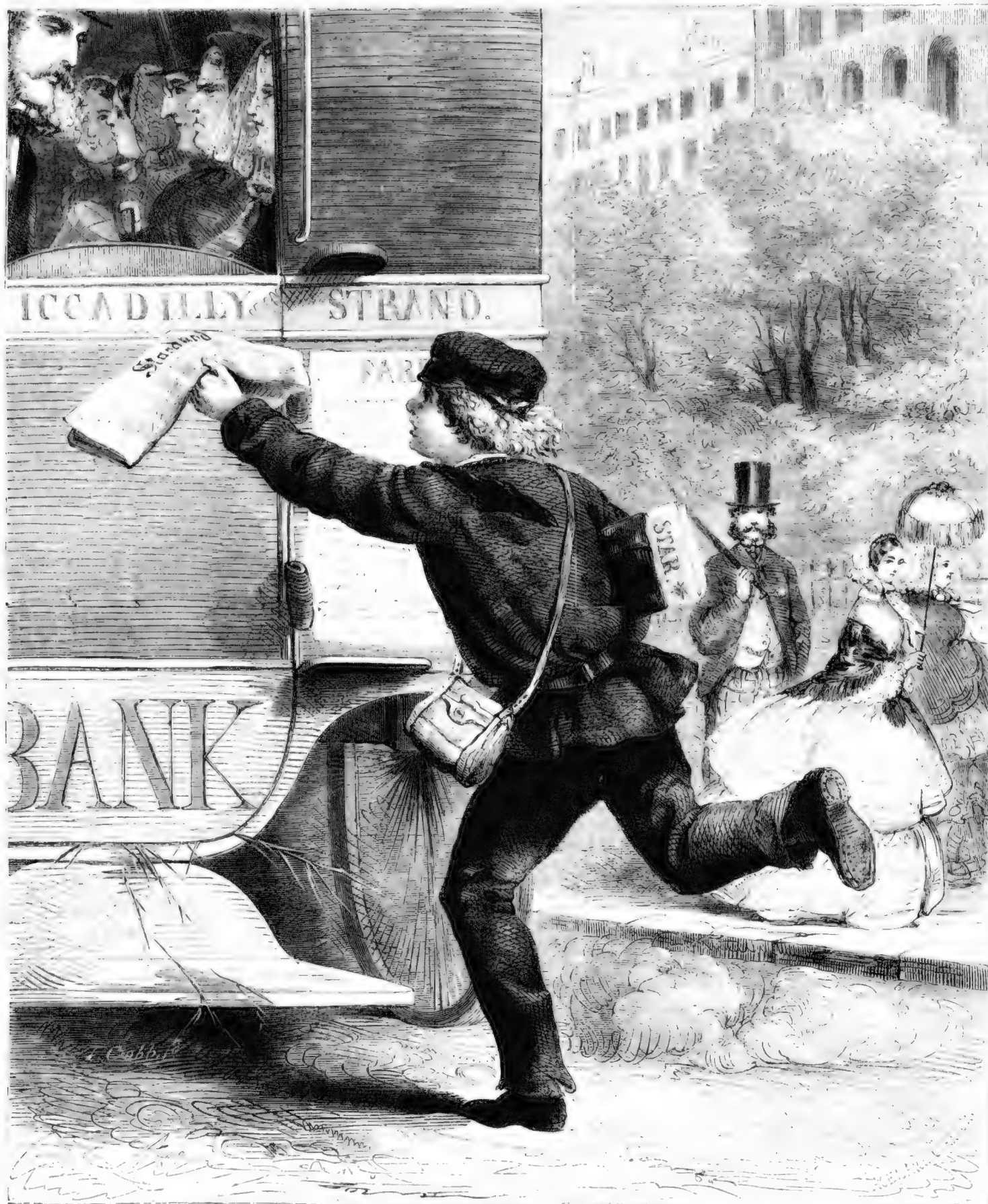
INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—The "Gazette du Midi" announces an important discovery which has been recently made in Palestine. Workmen, engaged in making an excavation in the neighbourhood of Beith-Lem, found a few yards below ground the ruins of an immense monastery, said to date from the time of St. Jerome and St. Paul. The walls of the building were still in an excellent state of preservation, and the mosaic pavement appeared as if scarcely touched by the ravages of time. The site is that which tradition points out as the spot where the angel appeared to the shepherds, announcing the birth of Christ, and it bears up to the present day the name of Siar-el-Ganem, or the sheep-walk.

THE NORTHERN JAILS.—A report has just been addressed to the new Home Secretary on the prisons of the northern district. The information is of a peculiarly interesting character, especially that relating to the prison of Newcastle-on-Tyne. "The system of confinement in this jail," says Sir J. Kincaid, the author of the report, is "of a character more calculated to encourage vice and crime than to deter or reclaim." While examining a piece of ground within the precincts of this prison, a heavy shower of missiles, at a given signal, commenced flying over Sir J. Kincaid's head most of those from the outside reached their destination, but some others missed their mark and fell at the inspector's feet; the missiles were chiefly pieces of bread, probably conveying some secret communications; one parcel contained a pound of the soothing narcotic "weed," doubtless for the solace of those in duress. One or two attempts have been made by prisoners to commit suicide with oakum and worsted. In Rothesay Jail a "penal servitude" convict bitterly complained of the class of books supplied to the prisoners, which this literary gentleman by no means approved. He afterwards tried to escape a la Jack Sheppard through the wall of his cell; and yet, at the time of the inspector's visit, will it be believed that the breach remained unrepaired! Another prisoner in this same prison was equally dissatisfied with the prison library, and when a Bible (apparently never opened) was pointed out to him, he intimated, with a want of piety not generally peculiar to Scotchmen, that it was not exactly the kind of book that a prisoner needed! In a third cell, where the Bible reposed upon a dirty shelf, a "song book" was found thoroughly thumbed, or, as the inspector says, "dilapidated" by constant use. At Kirkcudbright the debtors are infamously treated, being associated with the criminals, locked up all day, and only allowed exercise in the evening, after the criminals; at the Glasgow prison the complaints of the debtors are deemed worthy of notice; and at Dunblane the accommodation for debtors is wretched. The facts contained in this report are of a nature that can hardly be overlooked by her Majesty's Government.



Antonio Garcia, 11 Years in the Gallies. Ferdinando Bianchi, banished for 30 years, gave himself up after 12 years exile. Francisco Suraci, in Prison since 1847, was condemned to Death. Vito Purcuro, 27 Years in the Gallies, was condemned to Death. Camillo di Girolamo, 10 Years in the Gallies.

NEAPOLITAN EXILES.—(FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY MR. HUNTER, CORN.—SEE PAGE 186.)



THE STANDARD-BEARER.—(FROM A PICTURE BY ADELAIDE CLAXTON, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.)

THE STANDARD-BEARER.

THE title of this picture suggests the march of the Guards or of the Highlanders up the heights of the Alma, with the regimental colours flying in advance; the capture of an enemy's flag; or, at the very least, the manly figure of Herr Pischek, as that excellent baritone appears when shouting his celebrated "Standard-Bearer" from the bottom of his lungs. Miss Adelaide Claxton, however, is one of two young ladies, who, contrary to the habits of their sex, take neither a chivalric nor a serious, nor a common-place, but a satirical view of life. The "Standard-Bearer" is simply the boy who bears the "Standard" newspaper to omnibus doors, and (according to the notice of this picture in the "Telegraph")—not a fair authority on such a point) makes futile attempts to induce the inside passengers to purchase a copy. A celebrated German critic, in an article on an Italian "Eccce homo," commenced by asking "An homo Dei filius?" He then wrote an elaborate essay on the subject of the divinity of our Saviour, and concluded with three words concerning the picture which had suggested, or was supposed to have suggested, the so-called criticism. We had serious intentions, when we first saw Miss Adelaide Claxton's "Standard-Bearer," of writing a paper about the cheap press, calling particular attention to the sale of penny papers at omnibus doors. But then it occurred to us, that, in all probability, our readers would not thank us for our pains: and, perhaps, the best thing we can do, is simply to invite our readers to observe the truthfulness and character of Miss Claxton's performance. And we may also advise those who happen to go to the Exhibition of Female Artists, to look for two very clever series of sketches by Miss Adelaide Claxton's sister—illustrating, respectively, the life of a bachelor and that of an old maid.

PRINCE ALEXANDER

JOHN COUZA,
HOSPODAR OF MOLDAVIA AND WALLACHIA.

ONCE upon a time, there was a little country almost unknown. This commencement may read as if we were about to relate a fairy-tale; but, in fact, the country to which we allude had been so long buried in sleep, and has only so recently awakened up and made itself heard, that there is nothing exaggerated in this story-telling phraseology. Great events have lately been stirring amongst the Moldo-Wallachians, a people who, until within a short period, were only known to geographers, and of whom it was asked—hardly ten years ago—if they were Mussulmans or not.

Since that period they have engaged much solicitude in Europe; their wrongs and rights have distracted half the diplomatists in the world; and when we thought these at length settled in solemn conference, the people have opened the old troubles by electing one hospodar instead of two, as it was intended they should. This one hospodar is Alexander John Couza, whose portrait appears on the next page.

There is this difference between the hospodar and a very large

number of the Moldo-Wallachian nobility, that he is descended from the pure Rouman stock, while they are mostly of foreign extraction. His disposition, characteristic of the Latin races, has always manifested itself strongly in favour of the nations of Western and Southern Europe.

Prince Couza was born, in 1820, at Galatz, in Moldavia. In 1834, he was sent to complete his education in Paris, where he remained about five years; at the expiration of which time he returned, to fill many important posts in his own country.

In 1848, Couza was one of that handful of young men, who met together for the purpose of considering what measures of freedom should be demanded of the Porte. While engaged in thus deliberating, they were surprised, made prisoners, and sent to Turkey to answer for their delinquencies. Many of them resisted the attempt at arrest, and several were wounded in the struggle; amongst these latter was Couza. The convoy that had charge of the prisoners reached the Danube, they were embarked in a Turkish boat, which by careless management was allowed to run aground. In the efforts that were made to get her off, it was found necessary to invigorate the failing strength of those employed in the task. A few bottles of French wine were discovered stowed away with the prisoners' effects, and these were divided between the capturers and the captured; though apparently in unequal proportions, for somehow the capturers managed to get intoxicated, while the captured contrived to keep sober. The consequence was, that the latter made free use of their legs, and got away—all save Prince Couza, who, being badly wounded in the knee, was forced to remain behind, to hear the lamentations of the officer in charge of the escort. This semi-inebriated gentleman hiccupped out his complaints to Couza, who suggested that he might be able to bring back the fugitives by representing to them that their flight gave a guilty colouring to their position. To carry out this idea, he told the officer he must assist him to overtake his companions, as he was unable to walk alone. Having availed himself of this unsteady warrior's arm as far as the residence of a British consul in the neighbourhood, he abruptly declined further support, and took refuge beneath the English colours, leaving the Mussulman to bewail this double treachery.

Under the government of Prince Ghika, all exiles were permitted to return to their country. Couza hastened back to Moldavia; and recently, at the election of those who were to form the Assembly charged with expressing the wishes of the people as to their definition and organisation, Couza was already governor of Galatz. He sent in his resignation, accompanied by a protest that made some noise throughout Europe: it was, of course, written from the popular point of view.

From that time he took a prominent position in the ranks of the national party—a course of conduct which has resulted in his election for



ALEXANDER-JOHN I., HOSPODAR OF WALLACHIA AND MOLDAVIA.

both Principalities. This result was altogether unexpected, and has led to further complications; which, it is to be hoped, will be concluded with less delay and more effectually than the last.

A few days since, the Prince issued a proclamation. He says:—

"The result of the unanimous vote of both Assemblies has united the thrones of Stephen the Great and Michael the Brave. We see in it the

triumph of the principle dearest to our hearts—that of the Rouman fraternity.

"While mounting the throne, we are happy and proud to add the name of Alexander John I. to those of the princes who have reigned over this country. Our first duty on this solemn occasion is to express to our countrymen of Wallachia the wishes which we form for the peace and prosperity of this country, and to communicate to them our thoughts respecting the present and the future.

"Before assuming the reins of government we took this oath:—

"In the name of the most Holy Trinity, in presence of the nation, I swear to defend and maintain religiously the rights and interests of the United Principalities: to take care that during the whole of my reign the laws shall be respected by all, and on every occasion; and to have in view only the happiness and glory of the Rouman nation.

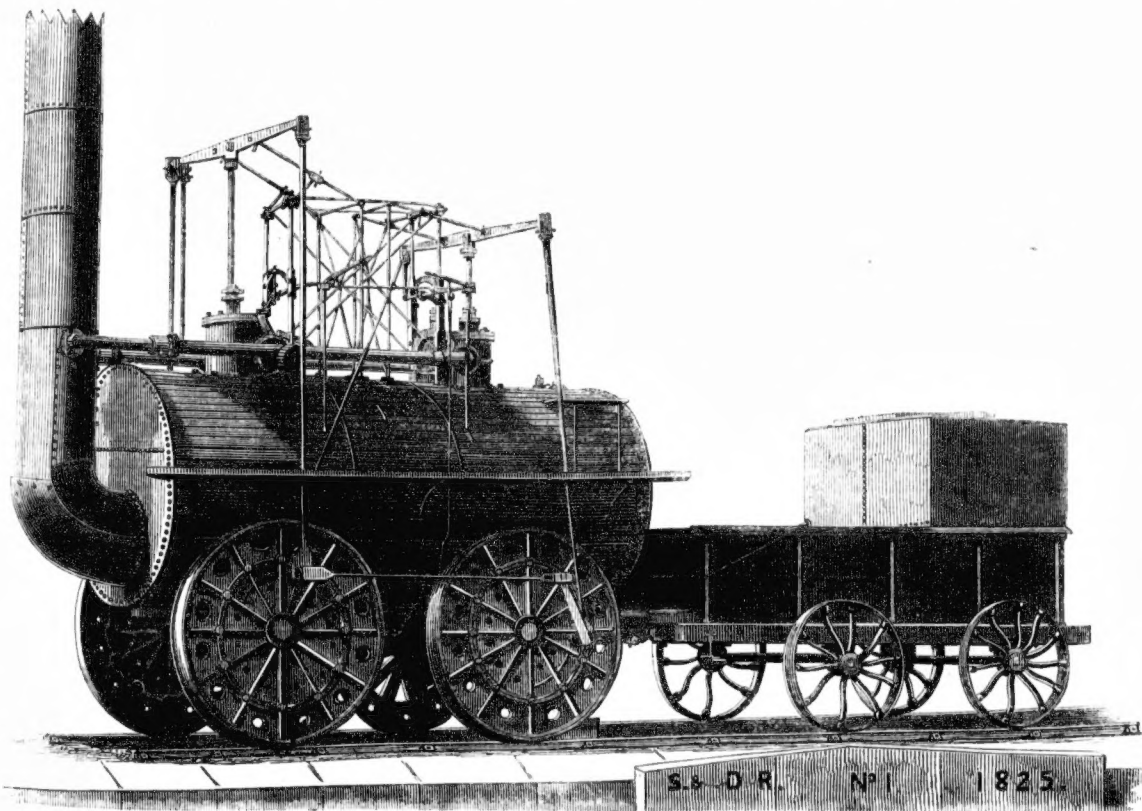
"May God and our fellow-citizens help us!"

"We cannot better indicate the line of conduct which we propose to follow in the government of Wallachia, than by reproducing literally those words which were repeated at the moment of our elevation to the throne of Moldavia.

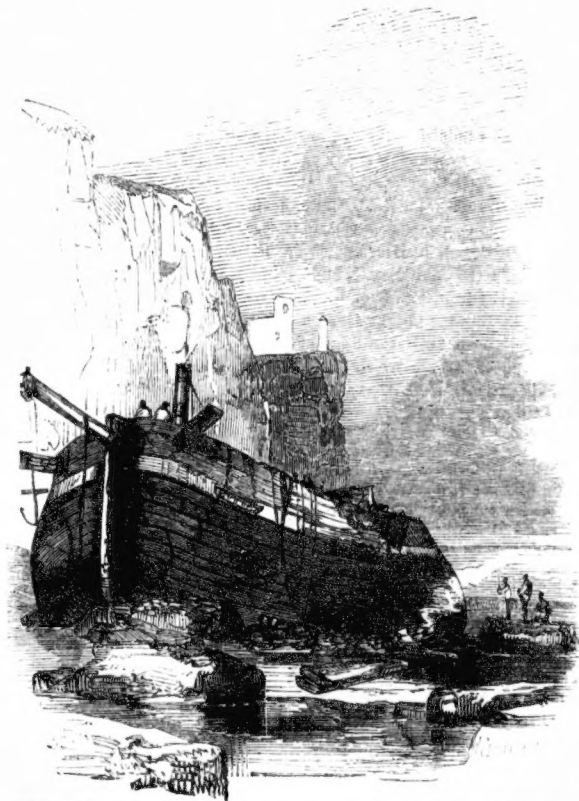
"In order that salutary reforms may conduce to our common welfare, we conjure all our fellow-citizens, of whatever rank and position, to bury in oblivion the misunderstanding and dissension of the past. It is only by means of concord, of reciprocal affection among the children of the same soil, and of perfect contentment among all classes of society, that we can unite all the vital force of the nation, and succeed in consolidating its power. It is thus that Government and people, aiding each other, shall succeed in raising our country from the low condition to which long and lamentable vicissitudes have reduced her. Our task is glorious, but it is difficult. To accomplish it we must count, on the part of all our fellow-citizens, on a serious and devoted co-operation. Each day of our existence will be devoted to the obtaining and meriting it. We appeal to the zeal, the activity, the patriotism of the functionaries who are the intermediate organs between the Government and those whom they administer for. The laws have fallen into desuetude, and with them all the administrative powers. The laws must recover their full authority. The executive power, which is henceforth to be the expression of the strictest legality, ought consequently to be strong and respected. Henceforth, all citizens, without exception, must be protected in their honour, their life, and property. That protection is placed under the responsibility of the public authority. By how much then we are happy to discover and to reward merit, devotedness, and loyal services of functionaries of every class, by so much are we resolved to visit with all the severity of the laws abuses, under what form soever they may appear.

"Such is our profession of faith. We owe it to the Wallachians, as we owed it to the Moldavians. It testifies to the grandeur and the importance of the mission which has been entrusted to us by the national will. We courageously accept it, and we will carry it out successfully, counting on the intelligent and devoted co-operation of a people who desire to be regenerated, and to show themselves worthy of the name of the Rouman nation."

THE NUMBER OF CIGARS AND CIGARETTES consumed in France in 1857 was as follows:—Havana and Manilla cigars, 36,086,500; cigars made in France, 481,071,300; cigarettes, 6,478,000; total, 523,636,000.



THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE, RECENTLY ERECTED AT DARLINGTON.



THE BETSEY CAIRNS, THE SHIP IN WHICH WILLIAM III. CAME TO ENGLAND.

THE FIRST LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE.

On a pedestal in front of the Stockton and Darlington station, at the latter town, is erected the first engine that ever ran on a public line of railway. This "No. 1 engine," as it is called by the railway officials, was built by Mr. Stephenson in the year 1825, and of course was the best model then known; and was considered to have performed a wonderful exploit both as regards power and speed, when on the trial trip it travelled from Shildon to Stockton, a distance of twenty miles, in five hours; and this with the ponderous load of a coach conveying the directors, and of sixteen wagons of coal. However, by certain improvements, it was soon made to draw twice the number of wagons, and even to attain the rate of five miles an hour under favourable circumstances! It was as well, perhaps, that its success was no greater. What the engine did accomplish was regarded as wonderful; and had the directors beheld it spinning over the line with a hundred wagons at its tail, and at a speed of fifteen or twenty miles an hour, it might have been fatal to their reason.

Though the course of improvement in locomotive engines was very rapid, this little No. 1 engine (it weighs only eight tons, while engines now built weigh some twenty-five) did good work in its day; for in one year, after it was remodelled, it passed over 25,000 miles. It does not appear, however, that it was ever used for passenger trains; indeed, when the prospectus of the Stockton and Darlington Railway was issued, no revenue from passengers was anticipated. For a few years one coach was run between Darlington and Stockton on the railway, drawn by a horse. Even then, however, Stephenson expressed his belief that "the time would come when the mails would be taken to London at the rate of fifteen miles an hour;" he lived to travel many a time at more than double the speed.

We can but view the conservation of this machine with great satisfaction. The first locomotive engine is not an insignificant thing; and it is worth preserving for posterity.

THE VESSEL IN WHICH WILLIAM III. CAME TO ENGLAND.

THIS celebrated ship was built on the Thames in the earlier part of the 17th century, and was afterwards purchased by the Prince of Orange or his adherents as an addition to the fleet which was destined to effect the Revolution of 1688. The Prince expressly selected this vessel to convey himself and suite to England, and he bestowed upon her the name of the *Princess Mary* in honour of his illustrious consort, the daughter of James II. With the success of her noble freight, the fame of the *Princess Mary* correspondingly rose. During the whole of William's reign she held a place of honour as one of the Royal yachts, and was afterwards regularly used as the pleasure yacht of Queen Anne. By this time, however, her original build was much interfered with from the numerous and extensive repairs she had from time to time undergone. On the death of the Queen she came into the possession of his Majesty King George I., by whose order she ceased to form part of the Royal establishment, and became the property of one of the noblemen connected with the court. The vessel seems to have again got into the hands of the government, by whom it was eventually sold to the Messrs. Walters of London, and was by them re-christened the *Betsy Cairns* in honour of some lady connected with the West Indies, to which the now venerable vessel traded. She was next sold to Messrs. Carless of London, as a collier; and conveyed many a cargo of black diamonds from the Tyne to London. Notwithstanding the grimy appearance which the aged ship had assumed, she was looked upon with veneration by the sailors, who had a superstitious feeling, that while the *Betsy Cairns* kept aloft, Protestantism would remain in the ascendancy. The ship seems to have been again restored, and was purchased by Mr. G. W. Wilson of South Shields, and under the charge of Henry Wilson, traded as merchantman to various ports; at length, while on a voyage from Shields to Hamburg, the brave old ship, which had rode triumphantly through so many gales, was caught in a storm, too strong for her weather-beaten ribs to withstand. A heavy snow was falling, and the wind, blowing a perfect hurricane, lashed the ocean to a pitch of fury. In this fearful state of things, the old ship became quite unmanageable, and was driven on to a dangerous reef of rocks, near Tynemouth Castle, called the Black Middens. The crew were saved by the lifeboat, which put off to their assistance.

In length the *Betsy Cairns* was 80 feet 3 inches by 23 feet broad. She had two decks, the height between which was 6 feet 6 inches. She was carvel-built, was without galleries, square-sterned, and devoid of figure-head. She had two masts, and was square-rigged, with standing bowsprit. The remnant of her original timbering, though but scanty, was extremely fine. There was a profusion of rich and elaborate oak carvings, the colour of the wood, from age and exposure, closely resembling that of ebony. As soon as the news of her wreck became known throughout the country, the people of Shields were inundated with applications for portions of her remains. On the part of the Orange lodges these applications were especially importunate. Snuff-boxes and souvenirs of various kinds were made in large numbers, and brought exorbitant prices. Each of the members of the then corporation of Newcastle was presented with one of these boxes, which exhibit, in a marked degree, the durability and inimitable qualities of the British oak. Two carved figures, part of the nightheads, are, we believe, now in the possession of the Brethren of the Trinity House at Newcastle; and a beam, with mouldings covered with gilding, and forming a part of the principal cabin, is the property of Mr. Rippon, Waterville, North Shields.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

WE have published the names of the singers engaged by Mr. Gye. It appears now that that distinguished manager is not by any means certain to have the best Italian Opera company in London during the coming season. Mr. E. T. Smith has not yet completed his arrangements; but it is tolerably certain that he will have for tenors Mongini (from La Scala), L. Graziani (from Paris), and Giuglini; for soprani, Brambilla (from La Scala), and Tittini; for baritones, Graziani (from the R. I. Opera) and Badiali. The Drury Lane opera, which, it appears, is, like the Covent Garden opera, to be called "Royal Italian," will not open until the 23rd of April. Several "novelties" are to be produced, among which Auber's "Gustavus," and Verdi's "Macbeth," are mentioned.

At the English Opera, Mr. Harrison took his benefit on Monday, on which occasion "Martha" was produced with great magnificence. "Martha" is not a master-piece, but it contains a great deal of lively, sparkling music, relieved here and there by a few strains of sentiment. The first act is a succession of polka and quadrille tunes, in the midst of which we scarcely notice a tolerably graceful air for the tenor, which Mr. Harrison, however, sang as effectively as possible. The overture—poorly constructed—was admirably played by Mr. Mellon's orchestra, and the chorus of servants going to the fair, and again the chorus which closes the first act, were sung spiritedly enough. The second act appears to us to contain the best music of the opera. The unaccompanied quartet which occurs towards the end of the first act is pretty, but the concerted music with which act II. commences is full of melody, and to some extent dramatic; that is to say, it is appropriate to the situation in which it occurs—by no means an uninteresting one. The spinning-wheel movement is clever and vivacious, and as a rule never fails to obtain an encore; but the two preceding movements seem to possess more music. However, in a comic opera of the "Martha" description, melodies have no chance against spinning wheels. And what success always does attend choruses with bells (as in "Stradella," by the composer of this very "Martha")! or with anvils and hammers (as in the "Trovatore")! or with long poles, wherewith to mark the time (as in the "Traviata")! or with paste-board trumpets, through

which to blow (as in "Robert le Diable")! or with labial imitations of "the breeze" (as in "Haydee")! And when was an air not encoored, if it only happened to be accompanied by the snapping of a strap (as in the "Postillon de Lonjumeau"), or the cracking of a whip (as in the "Rose of Castille"), or that terrible "tie-tac" of the village mill (as in the "Meunier de Nîmport")? Nevertheless the spinning-wheel quartet is very good in its way, and we suppose we may assume that the merit of the whole situation belongs to M. de Flotow, who appears to have a violent love for the subject on which "Martha" is founded, and who had already written half the music of "Lady Henrietta," or the Statute Fair" (a salutory "Martha"), before he commenced it. It is usual to speak of the story of "Martha" as absurd, but it only appears absurd in England, principally because all the dresses and names are incorrect. The mere fact of an *ennuyée* young lady of fashion disguising herself as a servant-maid, and going to the statute-fair, as if to seek for an engagement, is not monstrously improbable; nor is it unlikely that, being a pretty girl, she should soon get engaged; nor that her supposed master should fall in love with her; nor—the said master being handsome and well-bred—that she, the *ennuyée* one, should at once return his affection; nor that she should escape as soon as possible from his house; nor that, finding her gone, he should enter into a state of despair, which is a temporary madness; nor that, finding he is well-born, she should afterwards wish to offer him her hand; nor that he should reject it, and sing "Marta, Marta, tu," &c.; nor that, being good-hearted and full of love, she should implore him to accept it; nor, finally, that he should accept it, in token of having returned to his senses; nor, last of all, that the public should be pleased with the opera, which has the undeniable merit of being gay, and which contains a popular song about beer for the baritone, a tolerable air for the tenor, and a lovely national melody for the soprano. And how charmingly this melody has always been sung in London! We are not speaking of the year 1847, when "Martha," then just written, was played at the Princess's Theatre, by a German company; but of these latter days—of the Royal Italian and Royal English Opera companies—in short, of Madame Bosio and Miss Louisa Pyne. On Monday evening the singing of this last-named vocalist was marked by all the accuracy, brilliancy, and sweetness which usually distinguish it. Unfortunately in "Martha," the soprano has comparatively but an insignificant part. With the exception of the beautiful Irish air, *she* has really not a solo worth mentioning—certainly not one in which she has the least chance of being heard to any particular advantage.

We have, perhaps, said too much about the pretty, but not particularly elegant "Martha," and we will now only add, what we should have stated before, that Mr. Harrison sang the music of the lover in his very best style, that he was loudly encoored in the stag air of the third act, and that he was called before the curtain at the conclusion of the piece. To-night Miss Louisa Pyne is to take her benefit in the "Crown Diamonds," (played at the new theatre for the first time last week), and the season will then be at an end. We believe it has been a most prosperous one, and the managers certainly deserve the thanks of the public, alike for the efficient manner in which they have produced their operas, and for the great consideration which (at a loss of some fifty pounds a week to themselves), they have shown for the accommodation of the public. Not only have they abolished the honorarium to the box-keeper, and the fee to the keeper of over-coats, but they have introduced into England the system of providing with a numbered seat every person who pays for admission to the theatre. This is a plan by which, on many occasions—as, for instance, during the first success of "Satanella"—money must have been lost, but in the long-run it must certainly be as advantageous to managers as it is agreeable to the public. Before the Royal English Opera was opened, there was no theatre in London where you could be sure, if your money was once received at the door, that you would have a place enabling you to see and hear whatever was going on on the stage.

The first concert of the eighth series of the new Philharmonic Society took place on Monday evening at St. James's Hall, and was attended by a large audience, including a considerable number of musical celebrities. The orchestra was of first-rate quality, the vocalists were on the whole efficient, and the programme was admirably composed. The concert commenced with Mendelssohn's magnificent overture, "The Cave of Pingal," but the great piece of the evening was Beethoven's celebrated Ninth or Choral Symphony. This great work, although written for the London Philharmonic Society some twenty-five years since, and executed at their institution under the direction of Moscheles, Costa, and other conductors, on various occasions, is said not to have been heard to perfection in London, until it was produced by Berlioz at the New Philharmonic, in 1852. It has since been repeated several times at the Old and New institutions, and within the last three weeks, has been given twice under the direction of Mr. Hullah at St. Martin's Hall. For a considerable period after its first production, not only was the choral symphony not appreciated, but its merit was denied. Now it appears to be the most esteemed of all the compositions of the great symphonist. The execution at the New Philharmonic concert on Monday evening was admirable. The instrumental portion of this symphony had perhaps been as well performed on other occasions, but the vocal music had never before been given with such excellence. In the second part of the concert, M. Wienawski was heard in Mendelssohn's "Concerto," which he had already played with so much effect at Jullien's concerts.

At the Crystal Palace Concert of last week, the overture to Sterndale Bennett's "May Queen," and Beethoven's "Symphony in C" were performed very meritoriously by Herr Mann's orchestra; and Miss Arabella Goddard played in her usual masterly (mistress-like) style Dussek's "Concerto in G Minor" (introduced by her last season, it may be remembered, at one of the New Philharmonic concerts), and Mr. Benedict's fantasia on Irish airs, entitled "Erin." The piece of Dussek—who was the greatest pianist and composer for the piano of his time—was much applauded, and Miss Goddard had no alternative but to repeat the Irish fantasia, which she repeated, however, in the Irish style, by substituting for it "Home, sweet home."

LAW AND CRIME.

WE gave, last week, the particulars of a charge against two quack doctors, named Bennett, but practising under a variety of other names, and announced that a true bill had been found against them, and that an attorney, named Haynes, had been included therein for reasons not appearing. Since then, application has been made on behalf of Haynes for bail. He alleges that his only connection with the Bennetts was that between himself as attorney and them as his clients, and that his first intimation of the charge against him was the report in a newspaper of the finding of the grand jury against him. This statement is possibly confirmed by the facts now appearing. The charge against the Bennetts was conducted before the magistrate who committed the case to the sessions, by a solicitor appearing on behalf of a medical society, established under a recent act. We now find that the indictment is filed at the instance, not of the medical society, but of a man named Stowell, who commenced a notorious career many years ago as common informer, and has since become utterly infamous as a perjurer. Why the medical society or their solicitor should have enlisted such a person as this in their cause, must remain a mystery. The prosecution appears to have suffered by it, inasmuch as, at the sessions, the assistant-judge declined to issue warrants not only for the apprehension of Haynes, who voluntarily tendered bail, but for that of the Bennetts, who appear to have absconded. On the attendance of Haynes and his solicitor to give bail at Bow Street, Stowell took his seat in the space appropriated to attorneys. When the facts as above were stated, he called out, "That ain't true. No warrants was refused. They warn't applied for." The solicitor, in return, pointed out that Stowell was clearly occupying a wrong position in the court. Stowell an-

nounced himself as clerk to an attorney. The magistrate asked whether Stowell had a written authority to appear as such clerk. The reply was, "I ain't got one to-day. I showed one on Saturday in another case, and I can get one in 'arf an hour." He was then forced to resign his seat, amid great laughter, caused by his exposures of "Don't hurry—I'm a-going as fast as I can—I don't object to bail!" Bail was then offered and accepted for Haynes, against whom, in connection with this charge, not the slightest particle of evidence has yet been made public. It is to be hoped that, in justice to their own body, as well as to at least one of the accused, the medical association referred to, will institute a strict investigation as to the man in which Stowell was brought to bear a part in a public prosecution, instituted by a respectable society in discharge of a duty towards the public.

Thomas Brown Birkett, farmer, was on Friday last tried at Nottingham, before Lord Campbell, on a charge of murder. Two gamekeepers, named Vessey and Watmore, were, about nine o'clock on the 18th of November last, engaged in taking up rabbit-traps in a field occupied by their employer, a Mr. Gilbert, and adjoining one held by the prisoner. The prisoner came to them, and demanded information about some traps which he said belonged to him. Watmore replied—"We haven't seen them, sir; we know nothing about them." Rustic compliments then passed between all the parties, who called each other "bucket head," "chuffy face," and so on, up to worse language. The farmer finally called Watmore a thief, to which Watmore answered, "I'll make you prove me one." Prisoner immediately raised his double-barrelled gun, and shot Watmore dead. At the trial evidence was produced, proving that the fatal occurrence was not the result of sudden impulse, inasmuch as the prisoner had for some time before spoken to various persons about traps alleged to have been stolen from him by deceased, and had threatened to shoot him when they next met. The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged. On leaving the dock, he is said to have faintly ejaculated, "So much for the game laws!" His sentence has not, however, to our knowledge, been made the subject of comment by our contemporaries most averse to the game laws, as it is quite clear that in this case, these enactments furnish no greater palliation for the murder for which Birkett is to be executed, than the institution of matrimony for any ordinary ruffian who cuts the throat of his wife.—Four men of the seven who were apprehended for the murder of a gamekeeper at Bishop Burton, have been convicted of manslaughter, and are sentenced to periods of penal servitude varying from eight to three years.

George Plant was tried, at Sheffield, on a charge of murder. The prisoner had armed himself with a dagger knife, as he said, to protect himself against garrotte robbery. Being in possession of this dangerous weapon, he appears to have gone about seeking for an opportunity to use it. On the night of the alleged murder, he was seen in the street flourishing it before several persons, and threatening what he would do with it upon occasion. This was speedily afforded him by an unfortunate sot, who, in his moments of intoxication, was affected by a strong desire to fraternise with all he met, by shaking hands. He approached Plant with this purpose, and an altercation ensued, terminated by Plant giving him a mortal stab. The jury found him guilty of manslaughter only, but the judge took a more severe view of the case, and after commenting upon the impropriety of carrying such formidable weapons, sentenced the prisoner to penal servitude for life. Plant appears to have been a man of notoriously bad character, as several previous convictions were given in evidence against him.

In the Vice-Chancellor's Court, before Mr. Knight Bruce, a case was being heard, which was based upon an assignment by a lady to her own solicitor. The Vice-Chancellor, before the conclusion of the case, expressed a strong opinion as to the "imprudence" of the solicitor in taking such a deed. Sir Richard Bethell protested against any such judicial observation before the end of the hearing. The Vice-Chancellor reiterated his opinion, which, he said, was not intended to affect the character of Sir Richard's client. Hereupon a somewhat warm altercation ensued, causing an enlivening scene in the Court. The Vice-Chancellor repeated his opinion, and Sir Richard again repeated his protest. The "Times" reporter adopted the somewhat unusual course of praising the conduct of the advocate, and that journal next day published a leader, adopting the sentiments of the reporter on behalf of the bar, and attacking the general conduct of the Vice-Chancellor for similar interferences adversely to the interests of less independent or more nervous barristers than Sir Richard. Now, it certainly required no premature observation of a Vice-Chancellor to announce that the Court of Chancery always regards with great jealousy any deed executed by a client in favour of his or her solicitor. The fact of such an act being viewed with disfavour is certainly well known to every solicitor acquainted even with the rudiments of equity practice. If the Vice-Chancellor be in the habit, as implied by the "Times," of making premature comments, to the annoyance of the members of his bar, it appears strange that public attention has not already been directed to the fact. The virulence of the "Times" article would, however, rather induce its readers to surmise that some other cause of antipathy exists on the part of the writer towards Mr. Knight Bruce, who had clearly as much right to make the observations reported, as to enunciate any other well-known principle of law during the progress of a case, without reference to any peculiar incidents which might possibly ever judge in the land exercises every day that he sits in judgment, and it perhaps tends rather than otherwise to assist the operations of counsel, by directing their attention to the difficulties of the case at issue. At all events, it is not one likely to be surrendered in consequence of an attack in the "Times." It would be hard indeed, if all the latitude allowed in legal disputes were to be arrogated by counsel, to the exclusion of the judicial authorities.

Mr. Locke King proposes as an amendment to the new Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, that a person keeping possession of any house or land beyond the time at which rent shall be due, after one month, without means of payment, shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour. This clause, if passed, would be completely destructive of the common system of swindling by parties who take premises for the express purpose of keeping possession until paid out. By the present law such persons taking premises at an annual rent, say at Lady-day, may, by paying for the first six months, retain possession for *eighteen months* longer without paying a farthing rent, and without fear of ejection, as the law requires that six months' notice shall be given terminating at the anniversary of commencing possession. The evil is a great one. At the same time, oppression on the part of the landlord should be prevented, by requiring a reasonable time to be afforded on a formal notice to the tenant, requiring, in the interim, either payment of the rent, or surrender of the premises.

Joseph Kippax, a cheesemonger of the Blackfriars Road, has been for some time in the habit of attending the weekly markets held at various villages in West Kent. At these markets he frequently met a pretty young woman, whose parents were brought thither in the course of their business. Kippax set himself to beguile this young creature to leave her parents and share with him a lodging at Bexley Heath. In this he succeeded. When at length the company of the poor girl began to grow wearisome to the gallant Kippax, he coolly informed her that he was a married man, and that their acquaintance must cease. In the first moment of despair, as her own degradation and utter ruin were thus suddenly and brutally laid before her, the unfortunate girl caught up a knife and stabbed at her betrayer. The weapon glanced along his ribs, inflicting a slight flesh-wound, but the cheesemonger at once fainted, probably less from injury than from animal terror. The girl then attempted to stab herself, and inflicted a dangerous wound. On the recovery of Kippax, the miserable cheesemonger had the unblushing effrontery, and the unspeakable meanness, to give the young woman into custody, to appear against her at a police-court, to relate in the face of the public the shameful details of his own villany, and to obtain the committal for trial of his own victim upon a charge of attempted murder. The reporter adds, that, on leaving the bar, "she sobbed piteously, and was compelled to be supported out of court."

